

Caring Communities Partnership Result Reports

March 2002

March 14, 2002

In the fall of 2001 the Family and Community Trust (FACT), working with staff from Governor Holden's Office, community partnerships, and state agencies, focused on several strategic priorities for the Caring Communities initiative. These cohesive and comprehensive efforts were designed to strengthen our statewide Caring Communities work, and enable us to do a better job of serving Missouri's families and children.

Improving the way that Caring Communities Partnerships track, measure and report their results; reevaluating our roles and responsibilities and clearly defining our accountability; and implementing performance-based contract negotiations between the State and the partnerships, were issues of paramount importance to us.

The enclosed "Results Report" is one of the outcomes of our team's efforts. Reports like the examples contained here will be used by each of our community partners to demonstrate their progress in the areas they have chosen to target for improvement, and to highlight the "lessons learned" as each tries to effect positive change. Each of the community reports also includes a Community Report that describes their partnership and provides a context for the report.

At the beginning of each report there is reference to "Core Results" and "Benchmarks." Every Caring Communities Partnership uses data from the State to develop strategies for achieving better results for families and children in one or more of six designated core areas:

- Parents working
- Children safe in their families and families safe in their communities
- Children and families healthy
- Children ready to enter school
- Children and youth succeeding in school
- Youth ready to enter the workforce and become productive citizens.

Benchmarks measure their achievement in these core results.

Once its priorities are decided upon and the target population identified, the Community Partnership sets an interim objective for 2-5 years into the future. Using best practices and innovative ideas, the partnership collaborates with local and state partners to develop a community-wide strategy designed to achieve their objective.

The past year has been an exciting one for FACT and our state and community partners. We've worked hard and grappled with some very tough issues. This work has, however, helped us to rise above any differences and reach consensus, always staying focused on the mission of improving the quality of life for children and families in Missouri.

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**The Family And
Community Trust**
Interim Office
c/o CEU
3418 Knipp Drive
Jefferson City, MO
65201
(573) 526-3581
Fax: (573) 526-4814

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3418 Knipp Drive
Jefferson City, MO
65201
(573) 526-3581
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Family and Community Trust	Communities	State Agencies	Foundation Partners
	Map of Missouri with links to contacts at all communities Contacts: Caring Communities Partnerships Listing of all Caring Communities sites by Caring Communities Partnership	Directors Deputies Caring Communities Coordinators	

[Partners in Change](#) = FACT, communities, state government
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Changing How Communities and State Government Work Together

- [The framework for change](#): key features
- [A brief overview of Caring Communities](#)
- [Evaluating the change effort: Core Results and Benckmarks](#)
 - [The Missouri Caring Communities Evaluation Site](#)
 - [Benchmark Descriptions](#)
 - [Caring Communities 2000: A Descriptive Report](#)
 - [Results of the second year evaluation](#), "The Status of Caring Communities, June 1998"
 - [Results of the first year evaluation](#), "The Status of Caring Communities, July 1997"
 - [Results of LINC's survey of Caring Communities sites](#) "Measuring the Impact of Caring Communities in Jackson County A Report" by the [Local Investment Commission](#), January 1998
 - [Results Reports](#) from the community partnerships as of February 2002

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Resources to Assist in Caring Communities Implementation

Reports

"Results Reports" from each of our community partners demonstrating their progress in the areas they have chosen to target for improvement, and to highlight the "lessons learned" as each tries to effect positive change.

FACT Publications

The Family and Community Trust publishes resource guides and other materials. Some products document systems reform. Others are resource guides for implementing Caring Communities. This listing provides information about each publication and how to obtain it. Some publications are available for download.

Conferences

The Family and Community Trust receives notification of many local, state, and national conferences. Many of these are directly related to the work of Caring Communities. This listing of conferences is updated every month or so.

CC Links

This is an annotated list of links to Web sites with information or other resources to assist in Caring Communities implementation. Links are provided for each of the six core results and for the policy directions.

Data

A variety of sources of data that can be helpful in the planning process. Data links are at the school, school district, or county level.

Bibliographies

Bibliography of Key Resources

Bibliography and ordering information for key resources, most of which have been provided to Caring Communities Partnerships by the Family and Community Trust

Finance Project Bibliography

Ordering information for resources available from the Finance Project's Working Paper Series

National Center for Service Integration

Ordering information for resources available from the NCSI

CSSO Bibliography

This is an annotated bibliography developed by the Council of Chief State School Officers to assist communities in developing comprehensive, integrated services.



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Enter the words you would like to search for in the Family and Community Trust site

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Glossary of Terms

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Caring Communities

Missouri's system reform initiative to achieve the Core Results through partnerships between communities and state agencies.

Caring Communities Principles

The values that guide Caring Communities. They are:

- Families are the key to children's success
- Communities are supports for families
- Good schools, supports, and programs build strong communities

Core Results

The conditions of well-being for families and children to be achieved through Caring Communities. The Core Results are:

- Parents working
- Children safe in their families and families safe in their communities
- Young children ready to enter school
- Children and youth succeeding in school
- Children and families that are healthy
- Youth ready to enter the work force and become productive citizens

Policy Directions

The four components guiding Caring Communities. They are:

- Being accountable for achieving results
- Bringing services closer to where families live and children attend school
- Active community involvement in decisions that affect their well-being
- Using dollars more flexibly and effectively to meet community needs

Aa

accountability

Responsibility for achieving the Core Results.

agency

(see [public agency](#))

approach

(see [strategy](#))

asset mapping

Inventorying the gifts, skills, and capacities of a community's residents, groups, associations, and formal institutions.

Bb

benchmark

A specific measure of progress toward the Core Results.



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best/promising practices

Programs, skills, ideas, and use of resources that are known to improve conditions of well-being for families and children.

Cc

Top

capacity building

Efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of individuals and entities. Efforts include activities to increase knowledge, skills, abilities, and human and financial resources.

Caring Communities

Missouri's systems reform initiative to achieve the Core Results through partnerships between communities and state agencies.

Caring Communities Collaborative

An entity in the formative stages of becoming a Caring Communities Partnership.

Caring Communities Coordinators - Site

A community employee who works with Caring Communities site councils and Caring Communities Partnerships.

Caring Communities Coordinators - State

Employees of the state agency partners who are liaisons between those agencies and Caring Communities Partnerships.

Caring Communities Manager

An employee of the state agency partners who coordinates the implementation of Caring Communities among the state agencies.

Caring Communities Partnership

The decision-making entity, broadly representative of a county or multi-counties, that partners with state agencies to plan, develop, finance, and monitor strategies to achieve the Core Results.

Caring Communities Partnership lead staff

An employee who has primary responsibility to work with the Caring Communities Partnership to implement Caring Communities.

Caring Communities principles

The values that guide Caring Communities. They are:

- Families are the key to children's success
- Communities are supports for families
- Good schools, supports, services, and programs build strong communities

Caring Communities site

The geographic area designated by the Caring Communities Partnership and represented by a Caring Communities site council.

Caring Communities site council

The broadly representative decision-making entity at the neighborhood level that partners with its Caring Communities Partnership to plan, develop, finance, and monitor strategies to achieve the Core Results.

client/consumer/customer

A person or entity that receives and uses supports, services, or programs of an agency, association, group, or institution.

common assessment process

A procedure by which public and private community agencies share a uniform approach in working with a family to obtain needed information, identify strengths and needs, and make initial decisions about supports, services, and program planning.

community

The geographic area represented by a Caring Communities Partnership, Caring Communities site council, and/or a Caring Communities Collaborative.

community-based organization

An entity providing supports, services, and/or programs in their and other communities.

community plan

A plan developed by a community to achieve the Core Results in partnership with state agencies, the Caring Communities Partnership, and Caring Communities site council(s).

core dollars

Existing state and federal appropriated dollars that support the fundamental services delivered primarily by, or through, state agencies or their administrative agents.

Core Results

The conditions of well-being for families and children to be achieved through Caring Communities. The six Core Results are:

- Parents working
- Children safe in their families and families safe in their communities
- Young children ready to enter school
- Children and youth succeeding in school
- Children and families that are healthy
- Youth ready to enter the work force and become productive citizens

Dd

[Top](#)

deputy directors group

The department deputy director from each of the state agency partners who has primary responsibility for the Caring Communities' interagency strategic plan. The group makes recommendations to the department directors on budget, policy, and organizational structure to facilitate systems reform.

Ee

[Top](#)

early childhood care and education

Strategies to educate and care for young children from birth through age five so they are safe, nurtured, and provided with meaningful learning experiences.

Educare

A program funded by the Department of Social Services in partnership with local communities to improve and strengthen early childhood education by providing local training to child care providers.

entity

An agency, organization, association, group, or institution.

evaluation

An assessment that measures progress toward benchmarks.

Ff

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Family and Community Trust (FACT and/or Trust)

A state-level entity created in 1993 by executive order to assist communities and state agencies to achieve the Core Results.

Family and Community Trust Board of Directors

The 15-member governing body comprised of the directors of the state agency partners, and business and civic leaders.

financing

Methods of providing fiscal support to implement strategies.

Gg

[Top](#)

governance

(See [local governance](#))

Ii

[Top](#)

indicator

(See [benchmark](#))

initiative

(See [Systems Reform Initiative](#))

in-kind donations

Contributions of service, materials, supplies, equipment, or space that would otherwise

have a cost associated with their procurement.

LI

Top

local governance

The decision-making process by which a community takes responsibility for advancing broadly supported strategies to achieve the Core Results.

local investment

Private community funds and other resources that support the community plan.

Mm

Top

mandate

A duty required by law or rule.

mission

A statement of an entity's purpose and reason for being.

Nn

Top

needs assessment

An evaluation of the issues or challenges of a community's residents, groups, associations, and formal institutions.

neighborhood

The geographic area represented by a Caring Communities site council.

neighborhood-based organization

An entity providing supports, services, and/or programs in their and other neighborhoods.

Pp

Top

partners

Persons or entities which form a relationship to achieve the Core Results.

performance measure

The degree of effectiveness of an entity and/or supports, services, and programs.

planning funds

State agency funds to assist Caring Communities Collaboratives to become Caring Communities Partnerships.

policy directions

The four components guiding Caring Communities. They are:

- Being accountable for achieving results
- Bringing services closer to where families live and children attend school
- Active community involvement in decisions that affect their well-being
- Using dollars more flexibly and effectively to meet community needs

program

An organized effort of services and/or supports.

project

(See [program](#))

Promising Practices Network

(www.promisingpractices.net)

An internet-based web site that contains detailed information on documented "best and promising practices."

private non-profit

A non-governmental entity that is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes.

provider

Any person or entity that is paid to deliver services and/or supports to families or children.

public agency

A governmental entity that delivers supports, services, and/or programs funded by public

dollars.

Rr

Top

re-deployment

A component of a strategy that modifies, changes, relocates, or reassigns human, financial and other resources.

redirect

(See [re-deployment](#))

repositioning

A component of a strategy that modifies, changes, relocates, or reassigns human resources.

results-based planning and budgeting

A process that starts with the Core Results and directs planning and budgeting to achieve them.

Ss

Top

school-linked neighborhood-based

An approach to deliver supports, services, and programs for families and children at the school site or linked to the school, and based in the neighborhood.

self-assessment tool

An instrument used by an entity to evaluate itself at a specific point in time.

service

Work done by an entity to improve the well-being of others.

service integration

A process by which public and private education, health, mental health, economic development, employment, and social services are delivered in a unified way to improve results for families and children.

service delivery system

The manner in which supports, services, and programs are accessible, comprehensive, integrated, culturally-sensitive, family-focused, and school-linked neighborhood-based.

single point of entry

The one place where, or method by which, a variety of needed services and/or supports are accessed.

site plan

A plan developed by a Caring Communities site council(s) to achieve the Core Results in partnership with the Caring Communities Partnership.

stakeholder

A person or entity with an interest in the Core Results.

state agency directors

The department directors of the state agency partners who serve on the Family and Community Trust board of directors: Departments of Corrections, Economic Development, Elementary and Secondary Education, Health, Labor and Industrial Relations, Mental Health, and Social Services.

state agency partners

The state departments of Corrections, Economic Development, Elementary and Secondary Education, Health, Labor and Industrial Relations, Mental Health, and Social Services that are engaged in Caring Communities.

strategy

A way to reach benchmarks.

support

Activities informally done to improve the well-being of others.

Systems Reform Initiative

The long-term strategy that changes the way services are delivered, financed, and governed, and that change accountability for the Core Results.

Tt

Top

targeted incentive grants program for caring communities

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education competitive grants to schools for programs that are developed and implemented collaboratively with communities to keep children in their families, in school, and out of the juvenile justice system.

technical assistance

The provision of specific expertise to meet a specific need.

training

The transferring of knowledge, skills, and understanding.

Vv

Top

venture capital

An investment in a new initiative or project that is intended to obtain other investments.

vision

A shared picture of the future an entity seeks to create.

Ww

Top

welfare reform

Redesigning service delivery systems to integrate supports, services, programs, and employment so that families sustain a livable income.

what works

(See [best/promising practices](#))

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Press Releases

June 2003

[New Board Members Announced](#)

November 28, 2001

[Caring Communities Meets Governor's Mandates](#)

April 2, 2001

[Holden Re-Establishes Trust with New Accountability Measures](#)

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Community Partnership Benchmark Database

Which data set do you wish to view?

- [County Data](#)
- [Crime Data](#) (by police district)*
- [School Data](#) (by school district)

* For juvenile crime data, see the [County Data set](#)

[Benchmark Descriptions](#)



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Spearheading the [system reform initiative](#) to achieve Missouri's Mission . . .

For children to have strong families, and communities where parents are working, children are succeeding in school, and growing up healthy, safe, and prepared to enter productive adulthood.

FACT Board Meetings

FACT Board Announces 2003 Board Meeting Dates: March 11th, June 10th, September 9th and December 2nd.
Location: TBA

The Family Investment Trust's name was changed to *The Family and Community Trust* on April 2, 2001 by Missouri Governor Bob Holden. Click [here](#) to read the text of the executive order.

Missouri's system reform initiative is guided by a common mission (measured by progress toward [six core results](#)), four guiding principles, and four systems change policy directions.

These form Missouri's [framework](#) for change. This Web site provides information and resources to help bring about this change.

A list of recent conferences which might help you in your work is [here](#).

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The purpose of this site is to serve people implementing Caring Communities. Please let us know how we can better serve you by sending comments, suggestions, and corrections to [FACT](#).



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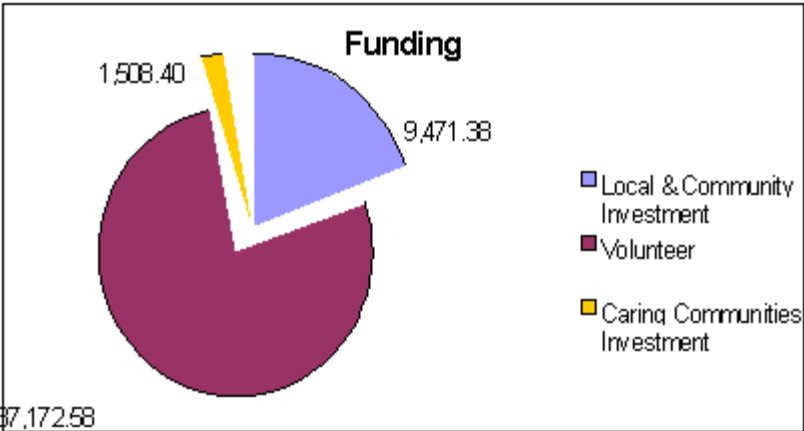
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Columbia/Boone County Community Partnership Community Engagement Report February 2002



The Worley Street Project

In January 2001 a call for community support to help improve living conditions in the Central West Area of the City of Columbia came from the Progressive Task Force. The Columbia/Boone County Partnership Executive Director and the West Area (Caring Communities) Coordinator met with Task Force to assist the them in creating strategies to engage community members in making a difference in their neighborhood and develop positive relationships with the City of Columbia .

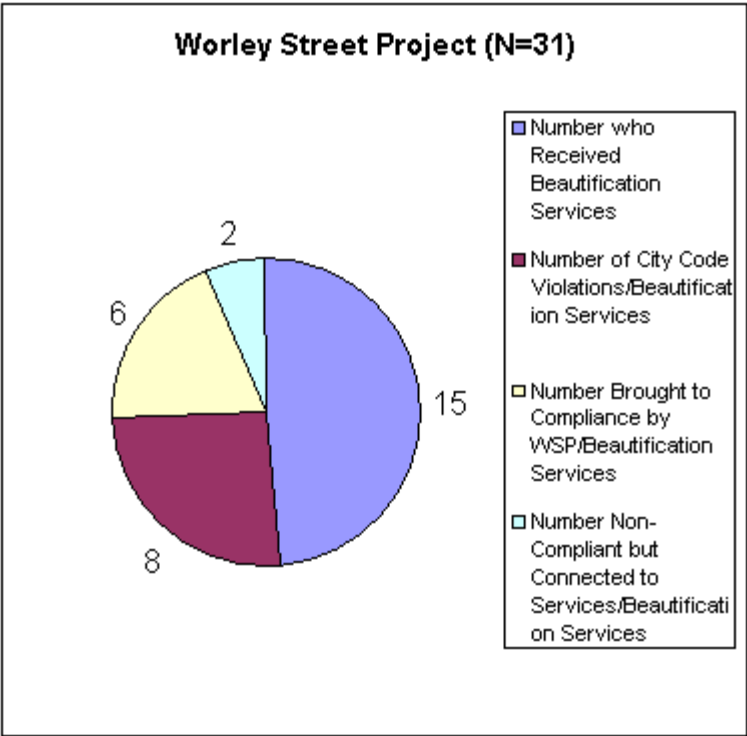
The goal of the Worley Street Project is to decrease the number of city health and safety violations and increase the value of the Worley Street Area. The Worley Street Project worked to beautify 14 to 16 homes in the Central West Area of Columbia Missouri between March 2001 to September 2001.

Target Areas: (2000-2001) West Worley, Oak, McBaine, Ridgeway, Banks, Dean, and Cook

Strategies

1. Bring homeowners, renters, landlords, volunteers, businesses, neighborhood associations, civic groups, city officials, and church groups together to finance and implement the neighborhood beautification project: cleaning up yards that have debris and assisting with responding to city code violations in this area.
2. Develop a working relationship between the Central West Area community members and the City of Columbia.

3. In this central area of Columbia the mobility rate for the schools is extremely high compared to other areas. The Worley Street Project strives to enhance neighborhood stability and reduce mobility rates by connecting community residents to housing resources.



Results

Thirty-one (31) homes in the central area received service from the Worley Street Project along with 26 Columbia Housing Authority Units. Of the 31 homes 8 (14%) had received City Code Violations. Six (75%) of the 8 City Code Violations were brought into compliance with help from the Worley Street Project. Two of the eight (25%) City Code Violations were homes that are owned by Senior Citizens.

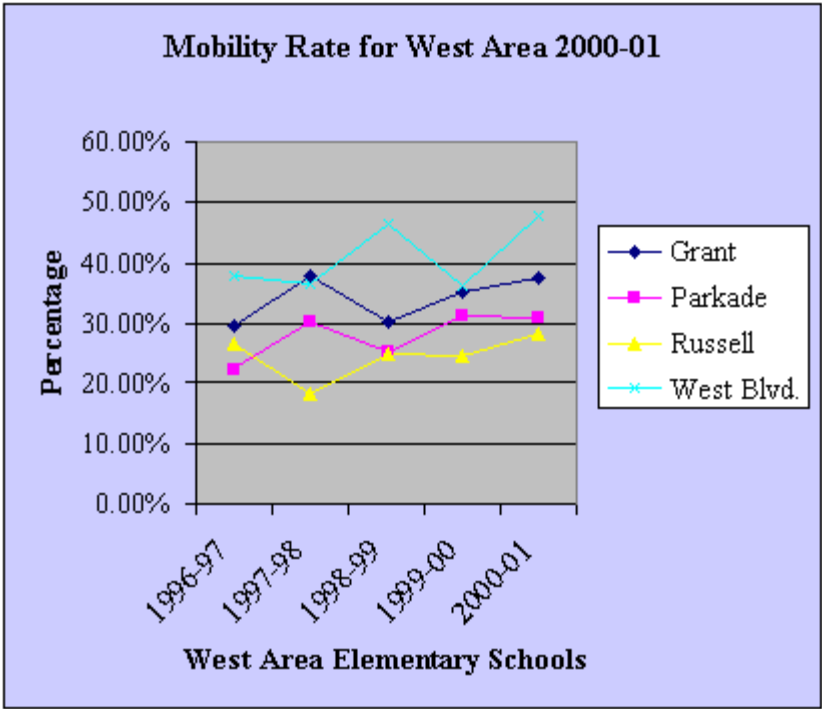
The Worley Street Project was able facilitate a collaboration between the City of Columbia, the Division of Aging, and the Boone County Council on Aging to address the needs for the seniors. This work resulted in one home being painted and three homes having gutters replaced by Worley Street Project Volunteers. Additionally, two homes were identified as having asbestos removal concerns.

Funding/Return on Investment

Local Community Investments: \$9,471.38
Volunteer Investment: \$37,172.58
Caring Communities: \$1,508.40

Noteworthy

Four area schools in Central West Columbia have extremely high mobility rates compared to other school attendance areas in the Columbia Public School district. The Worley Street Project will partner with the City of Columbia for “Home Day” in March 2002. As part of Home Day, residents in these school attendance areas will receive information on affordable home financing programs to encourage residents to purchase homes in the neighborhood.



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Columbia/Boone County Community Partnership Core Result: Children Succeeding in School Benchmark: School Attendance

Objective

To decrease the number of classroom behavioral disruptions at Eugene Field Elementary School by 50% from SY 1999-00 to SY 2003-04.

Strategies

Eugene Field and other “at-risk” elementary schools were targeted to promote mental health improvement for children, staff, and family/community members.

Increased access to mental health services for students, their families, school staff and community members on site at schools, in homes and in the community. Partnering with families, community members, Columbia Public Schools, Division of Family Services and local mental health providers, group and/or individual sessions were arranged for: children who evidenced need in social skills, stress reduction, anger management and post traumatic stress disorder (150); staff who requested assistance with skills to manage themselves in relation to the children with whom they work (100); families confronting the effects of situations and events impacting their lives, ranging from grief and loss to long term issues resulting in post traumatic stress disorder (100). Segments of this were implemented fall of FY 1999-2000.

Community Awareness

Love and Logic/Conscious Discipline. Partnering with Central Missouri Counties’ Human Development Corporation, Head Start, Division of Family Services, Columbia Public Schools, Voluntary Action Center, Mental Health Professionals, Columbia Public Schools, Russell Elementary School, Eugene Field Elementary School and the Caring Communities Site Council, Educare, Parents As Teachers, Child Care Connections, Child Care Consortium, and the Boone County Parent Education Consortium brought nationally known parent/teacher author/educator, Dr. Becky Bailey, University of Florida, to Columbia for a two (2) day series of events targeting

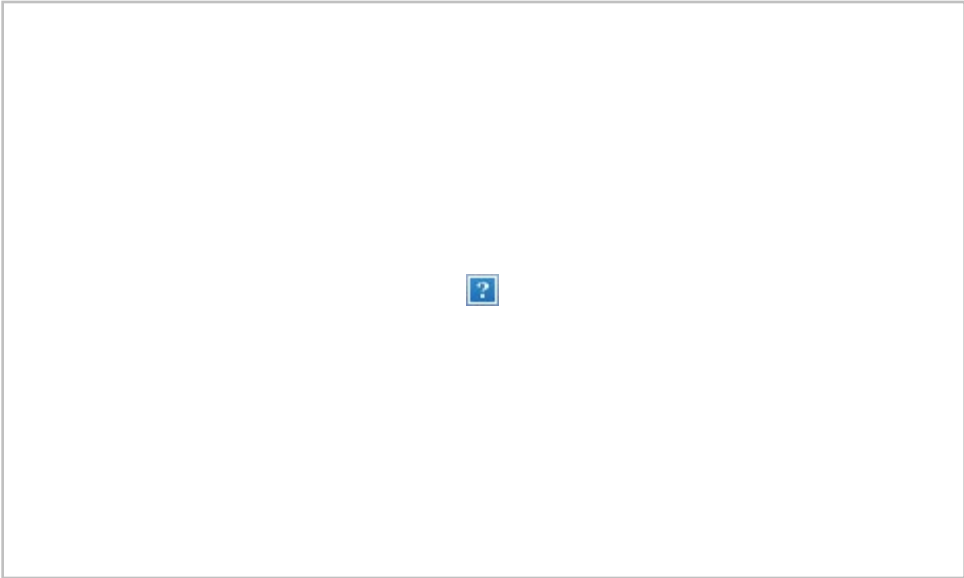
parents/teachers/child care providers and health and social services providers. 650 persons attended these events.

Love and Logic/Conscious Discipline

As a result of the Community Awareness, Schools and Child Care Centers have adopted the methodology of choices and coping mechanisms for their staff and students, have attended the classes (ranging from 2 days seminars to 24 hours 6 weeks courses.) Staff are now being trained as trainers. Some are at the advanced level. Family/Community Members are requesting on-going trainings on a quarterly basis in the Columbia/Boone County Area. (Implemented summer FY 2000)

Results

Our objective has been met! The goal now is to see the projects self-sufficient by FY 2003-2004.



This graph also represents the on-going goal for the community-wide issue, and it's success.

Funding/Return on Investment

Caring Communities: \$70,363.00

State: \$20,000.00

Local Investment: \$40,000.00

Noteworthy

From the original five-year plan, based on a 50% decrease in numbers of office referrals in school due to disruptive behaviors, the goal has been met. For FY 2000-2001 over 1000 children/staff/community members participated in one or more aspects of this project. And many more will participate in the coming years.

Barriers / Road Blocks

While we can effect systems change at a local level to some degree, the reality is that we are working with the working poor who receive little or no insurance for mental health. Mental health providers, even for families who have DFS benefits, must wait sometimes months for payment, and then only receive approximately 30% of the total cost of services. In the meantime, families and children suffer the consequences of old paradigms and stereotyping. Self-sufficiency regarding the costs of competent mental health provision is not likely to occur without State/federal systems changes.

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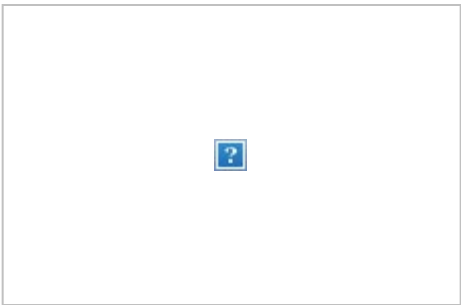
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Columbia/Boone County Community Partnership

Core Result: Children succeeding in school Benchmark: Math MAP Scores



Objective:

To increase 4th grade Math MAP Scores for students at Benton, Blue Ridge, Derby Ridge, Field, New Haven, Parkade and West Blvd Elementary schools by 5% from 1999 by 2003.
Strategies: Children can succeed in school through school support of academic focused after school programs, mentoring, summer programs and mental health strategies.
Summer Programs: Bobcat Camp at West Boulevard and the Michael Center at Parkade.
Accessible mental health for students and families: Love and Logic and Family and Individual group therapy and through the provision of support for transportation to these programs

After School Program:

The Michael Center Parkade: The Michael Center offers an academic tutoring program for children. The focus is on improving student's academic success and participation, parental involvement and teacher feed back. Parent surveys conducted prior and post to program participation indicate that children had increased completion of homework; self-confidence levels and grades had increased.

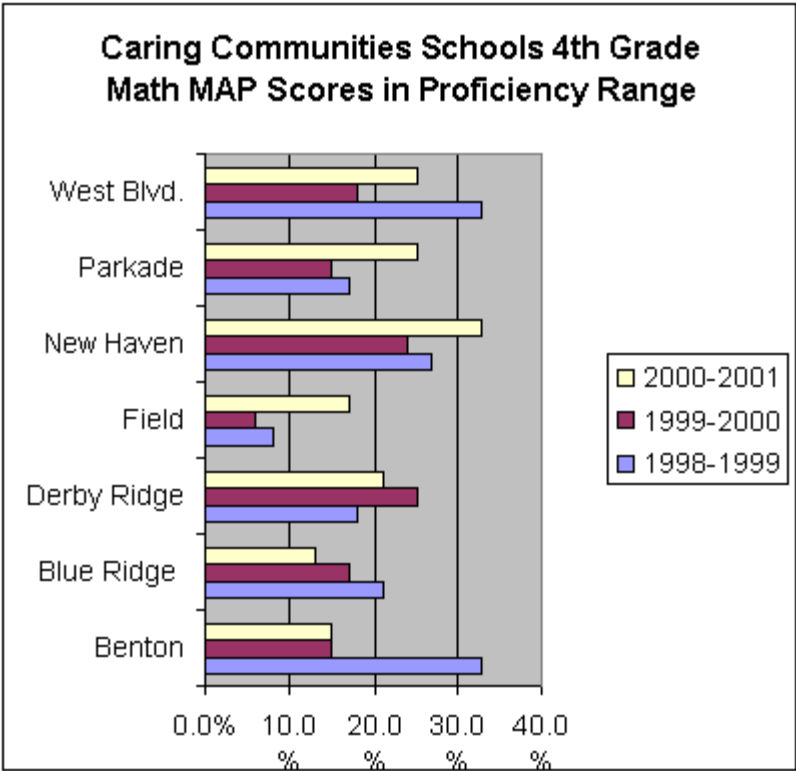
West Boulevard After School Tutoring & Summer Program: This program is an academic and enrichment program that has collaborated with other Columbia agencies, to enhance supports for students in need of improvement. Students participating have shown improvement in reading aptitude scores.

Mentoring:

Jumpstart: This mentoring program seeks to provide one on one relationship to improve school interest and self esteem. This program targets children who have been identified as at risk for dropping out of school.

Homework Helpers: Blue Ridge Elementary School offers children the help with homework that they may not receive at home. This program served 26 children.

Results:



Funding/Return on Investment:

Caring Communities: \$85,151.00

Local: \$8,212.00

In-Kind: \$25,000.00

Local investment and in kind contributions have been provided by Columbia Partners in Education, Big Brothers/Big sisters, Central Missouri Food Bank and The Columbia Public School District.

Noteworthy:

“Without the West Boulevard after school program, my child may not have succeeded in learning how to read.” Janice Wallace, Parent

Barriers:

Transportation is an extremely expensive component for after-school programming. This community partnership covered \$42,463.00 of the funding in order to continue this programming.

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VISION

It is the desire of the Columbia/Boone County Community Partnership to have a safe, diverse community wherein all persons, families, and friends are respected and have full opportunity to be involved and to achieve productive, happy, and healthy lives. The Columbia/Boone County Community Partnership shall serve Boone County, Missouri.

PURPOSE

The Columbia/Boone County Community Partnership is a 501©3 not for profit organization whose purpose is to promote coordination and cooperation among schools, social service providers, churches, associations, businesses, parents, governmental agencies and other individuals. In so doing, the Partnership strives toward empowering the community to work together to address the issues and concerns relevant to where individuals study, live and work.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

The geographic area served by the Columbia/Boone County Community Partnership is Boone County Missouri. Boone County is located in the central area of the state. Boone County is fundamentally a rural county with an area of 685 square miles. The city of Columbia represents 62% of the population of Boone County. Other incorporated areas of Boone County are Ashland, Centralia, Hallsville, Sturgeon, Rocheport and Harrisburg. The combined population of those towns is 8065 residents. Significantly, 31.7% of the county population lives in rural un-incorporated areas.

Boone County is generally experiencing a healthy economy. Boone County is faring better than the state in most, if not all, economic indicators, including poverty rate, median household income and number of children living in poverty. Although the economy in Boone County is healthy, there are some areas of Boone County that residents are not sharing in the well being of the economy. Central and south-central Columbia data indicates that those areas have a median annual income per household of less than \$20,000 annually as compared to a countywide median household of \$38,421. Much of the northeast and southeast parts of Columbia as well as the city of Ashland and the northern extreme of Boone County, which includes the cities of Centralia and Sturgeon, have a median household income of \$20,000 to \$30,000 annually.

In the seven years since the founding of the Columbia/Boone County Community Partnership, there have been site councils at ten schools in the Columbia Public School District as well as various other neighborhood and community groups involved in the development of plans. The work of these groups has resulted in programs and strategies around each of the six core results. The broad community wide results that have been focused on are Children Ready to Enter School, Children Succeeding in School, and Adults Working. These results were identified either through broad-based community groups or by a variety of local site councils working on common issues.

The Columbia/Boone County Community Partnership has been able to leverage \$3.40 of other funding for each \$1 of Caring Communities funds received. The Partnership has a total budget of



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\$3,170,756 for fiscal year 2002. Of that budget, \$930,027 is from the Caring Communities pooled funds. The Partnership has been able to attract other local, state and federal funds as well as private funds as a result of the capacity made possible from the Caring Communities funds.

The Partnership would like to specifically thank the following local partners for all they have done to assist in the development of a stronger community in Boone County:

- City of Columbia
- Boone County
- Columbia Public Schools
- Columbia Area Chamber of Commerce
- Columbia Area United Way
- Boone Hospital Center
- Advent Enterprises
- University of Missouri
- Columbia College
- Boone Early Childhood Partners
- City of Centralia
- Centralia Chamber of Commerce
- Boone County Extension Office

The primary success of the Partnership has been the ability to engage local partners to identify gaps in services and develop strategies to address those gaps. Some of those gap-filling strategies include access to mental health services, before and after school programs and summer programs for youth. There has also been success in assisting neighborhood groups and residents of Centralia in developing action plans to build stronger communities.

The primary challenge in Boone County is related to the way the Partnership, and most particularly Caring Communities, was initially designed and managed. The evolution of the initiative over the years has left many in the community confused regarding the role of the Partnership and with expectations that are difficult to respond to. Progress has been made. The Partnership Board of Directors has done very hard work to clarify the role of the Partnership in the community. The Partnerships involvement in various community issues currently before the community will serve as a major step in clearly identifying the governance role of the partnership in Boone County.

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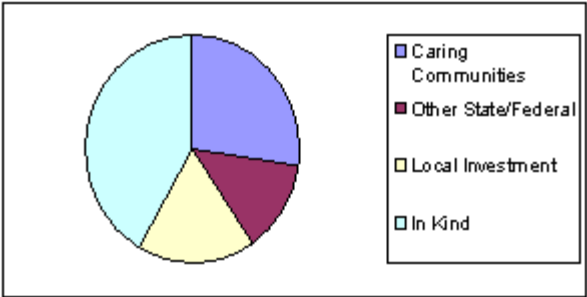
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Buchanan County St. Joseph Youth Alliance

Core Result: Children succeeding in school Benchmark: Student MAP scores



Caring Communities Investment

Objective

To increase the percent of students who achieve the “proficient level” on the MAP test in communication arts and math in the following schools:

Communication Arts: From (2000) To (2004)

Lindbergh Elem 23% 25%
Humboldt Elem 21% 23%
Webster Elem 26% 53%
Pershing Elem 39% 41%
Robidoux Middle 21% 23%

Math: From (2000) To (2004)

Lindbergh Elem 32% 34%
Humboldt Elem 23% 25%
Webster Elem 19% 35%
Pershing Elem 15% 17%
Robidoux Middle 4% 6%

Strategies

The primary strategies our partnership implements are tutoring and homework helpers. These strategies are offered at each of the four elementary schools and at the middle school. Homework Helpers is offered after school only and allows for students to drop in for homework assistance. The tutoring programs are more structured with students being referred for the assistance at a pre-set time.



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Successes

We have found that offering incentives for A and B grades, offering tutoring during the school day, as well as after school, and limiting the tutor to student ratio to 1:5 have been significant motivators for students to attend sessions and improve their grades.

Observations/Actions

Robidoux Middle School has implemented Read 180 in this current school year to address the low reading skills of their students. The Sites will continue to work with school staff to combine the efforts of the tutoring programs with the focus of the classroom instruction to promote student progress.

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Successes

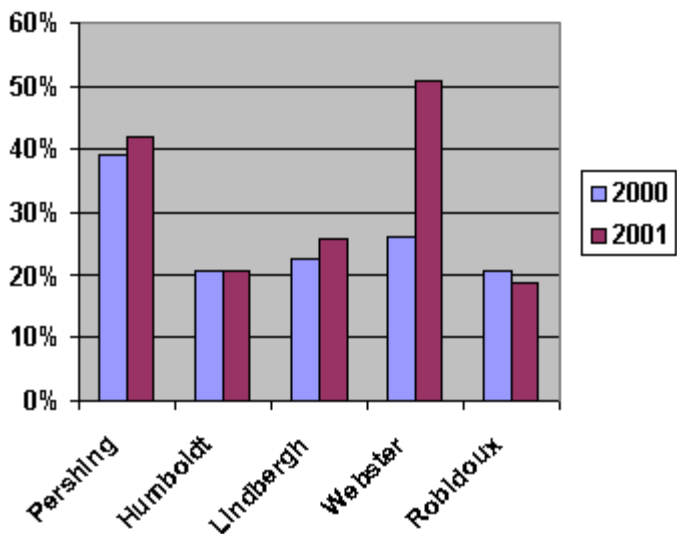
We have found that offering incentives for A and B grades, offering tutoring during the school day, as well as after school, and limiting the tutor to student ratio to 1:5 have been significant motivators for students to attend sessions and improve their grades.

Observations/Actions

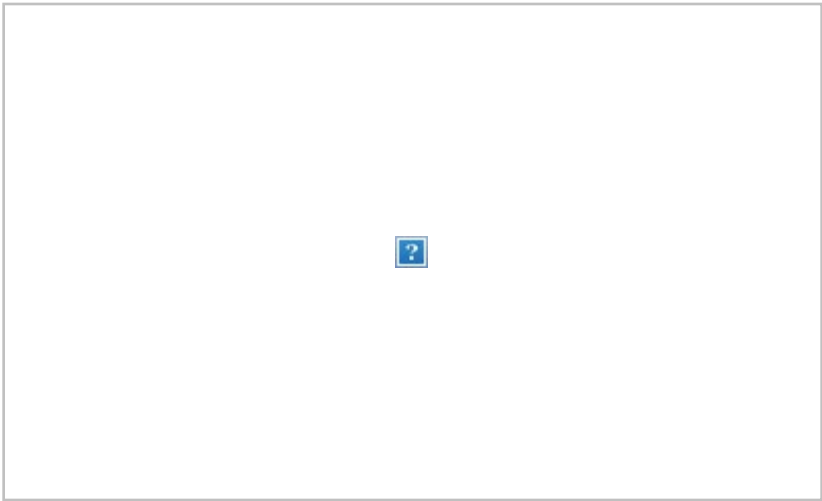
Robidoux Middle School has implemented Read 180 in this current school year to address the low reading skills of their students. The Sites will continue to work with school staff to combine the efforts of the tutoring programs with the focus of the classroom instruction to promote student progress.

Results

Communication Arts MAP Scores at Proficient level: (3rd grade Elementary and 7th grade Middle)



Math MAP Scores at Proficient level: (4th grade Elementary and 8th grade Middle)



Funding/Return on Investment

The tutoring and homework helpers strategies are primarily funded by Caring Communities flexible funds. Recently, the St. Joseph School District has bought in to this strategy and is providing funding for two of the sites. Snacks are also provided at three of the elementary sites through the Department of Health summer food service program via the School District.

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Buchanan County St. Joseph Youth Alliance

Community Profile

February 2002

To FACT Board Co-Chairs:

The St. Joseph Youth Alliance is the only Community Partnership in Buchanan County, and currently serves six sites in the north end of St. Joseph, with expansion into four additional sites underway. Located approximately 50 miles north of Kansas City, St. Joseph reports a population of 72,000. Approximately 14% of the population meet or exceed the state's description of poverty. St. Joseph is a community rich in potential assets—it has a state-of-the-art medical system, a citywide public transportation system, a successful United Way, and is home to approximately 200 churches with all denominations present. One of the biggest assets in St. Joseph, is the community's commitment to a five-year strategic planning process entitled, Great Things Happen In Greater St. Joseph. Seven partners funded this community planning effort, the City of St. Joseph, the County of Buchanan, the Chamber of Commerce, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Heartland Health, the St. Joseph School District, and Missouri Western State College, which resulted in the collection of input from over 3,500 citizens through approximately 10,000 hours of volunteer labor.

The St. Joseph Youth Alliance is an independent nonprofit organization, which houses both Caring Communities and Educare. A 15 member Board of Directors, made up of representatives from the state, city, county, social service agencies, the school district, business partners, clergy, and independent citizens, governs the Partnership. The Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 am. The mission of the Partnership is: Working better together to benefit children, families, and the community. The vision: St. Joseph children are prepared to make the most of their potential.

As a result of a recent restructuring effort, the Board has narrowed the focus of the Youth Alliance to three of the six core results: children ready to enter school, children succeeding in school, and youth ready to enter productive adulthood. This move was done in an effort to reduce administrative costs and focus on outcomes and accountability, while also supporting the work of the Great Things Happen community plan. Through that comprehensive plan, these three areas didn't have a wide array of support, as did the core results addressing health, safety, and employment.

The Board and the staff of the Partnership understands the importance of leveraging Caring Communities flexible funds with other sources of funding, and strive for that on a continual basis. As a result of this diligence and hard work, we are proud to say that Caring Communities funds are reflective of only 19% of the overall Partnership budget of \$3,423,347.

Were it not for the continued support of our state and community partners, we would not be able



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to make the differences we have made here in St. Joseph. Speaking on behalf of the Partnership, and knowing that all of the partners in this success would be impossible to mention, we would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to members of the Site Councils, members of our Board, the Local Resource Team, the St. Joseph School District, the YWCA, United Way/Success by Six, Family Guidance, Economic Opportunity Corporation, Inter/Serv, the funders and volunteers of the Great Things Happen community strategic plan, our Legislators, and our State Agency partners. Without each of these partners, our success would be difficult and limited.

Though the work of systems reform is challenging and endless, we are renewed with each success. In this community, we have worked to convene groups of individuals from all walks of life, to identify, discuss, and strategize over key issues in St. Joseph. What began as simply communication has evolved into collaboration. Partners in this process are coming to the table with whatever piece of the puzzle they possess, be it time, money, ideas, etc. With this obstacle overcome, the next challenge is figuring out how and if the pieces of the puzzle fit together. Successfully completed puzzles in St. Joseph include such strategies as the School Based Social Workers and the Targeted Case Manager.

This process is both time consuming and timely during this era of economic uncertainty. We appreciate all you have done, and look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,
Anita Jolly
Caring Communities Director
St. Joseph Youth Alliance

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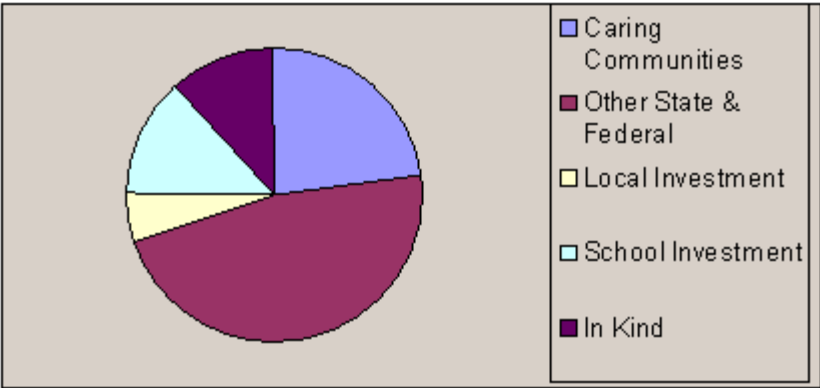
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“A Community Partnership of the Caring Communities Initiative”

Butler County Community Resource Council
Core Result: Healthy Children and Families
Benchmark: Births to Mothers Under Age 19

February 2002



Caring Communities Investment

Objective

To decrease the rate of births to mothers age 15 to 19 from 75.3 per 1000 in 1998 to 66.0 per 1000 by 2003

Strategies

What Worked?

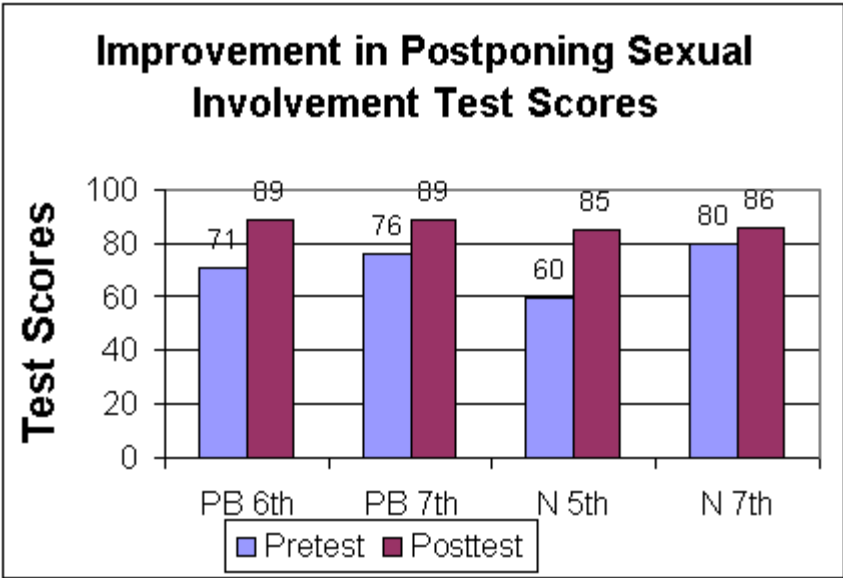
Youth Education

The Postponing Sexual Involvement educational program in two Butler County schools focuses on helping pre-teens (grades 5-7) to gain the skills to resist social and peer pressures to engage in early sexual involvement. Social skills training including assertiveness, resisting peer pressure, and basic factual information is presented. School districts partner with the Butler County Health Department and teen peer educators to implement the program Note: Poplar Bluff (PB) and Neelyville (N) Pre/Post Test Results for 1999-2000 School Year Below.



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Parental Communication

Baby Think it Over uses computerized infant dolls to simulate the experience of caring for a baby. Seventh through ninth grade girls and boys ‘care’ for the dolls, including feeding and comforting functions. Feedback from students indicates an enhanced appreciation of the challenges of parenting and an expressed desire to postpone becoming a parent until they are adults. The Baby Think it Over Program appears to increase parental communication to children regarding sexual issues. The Children’s Trust Fund indicates that parental communication can enhance a child’s decision-making skills and can contribute to postponing sexual involvement.

New Efforts for FY 01

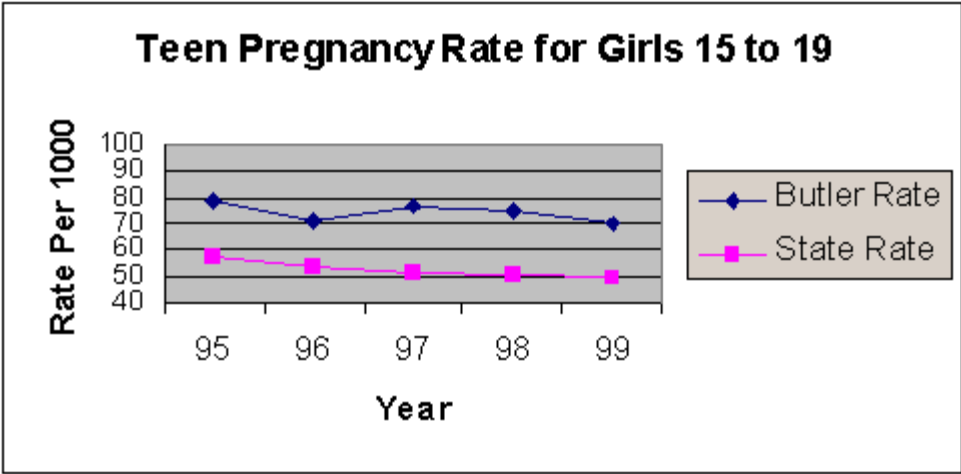
Targeting Teen Parents to Reduce the Occurrence of Repeat Pregnancies

Research indicates that the most likely teenager to have a child is one that has already had a child in the past two years. Consequently, the Community Partnership is now working with teen mothers.

The Missouri Volunteer Resource Mothers model is a part of the Missouri Mentoring Program. The Resource Mothers approach uses a trained coordinator to match volunteer mentors who are experienced mothers with pregnant or parenting teens. Research indicates the model is effective in reducing child abuse and neglect and repeat pregnancies.

Results

The teen pregnancy rate for girls ages 15-19 has declines in Butler County at a rate faster than the decline in the state rate. The rate in 1995 in Butler County was 79.0 per 1000 girls 15-19. The rate in 1999 was 70.2 per 1000 girls 15-19.



Funding/Return on Investment

In FY01, Caring Communities funds of \$5,981 were leveraged with \$19,924 of other funding. The extremely modest cost in terms of Caring Communities funds saved untold thousands of dollars due to the high cost associated with teen pregnancy. According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, three out of five teen mothers drop out of school and 75% of teen mothers dropping out depend on public assistance.

Noteworthy

In 1997, Butler County ranked 101st out of 115 counties in teen pregnancy rate for girls ages 15-19, according to the Missouri Kids Count. By 1999, Butler County had improved 88th out of 115 counties.

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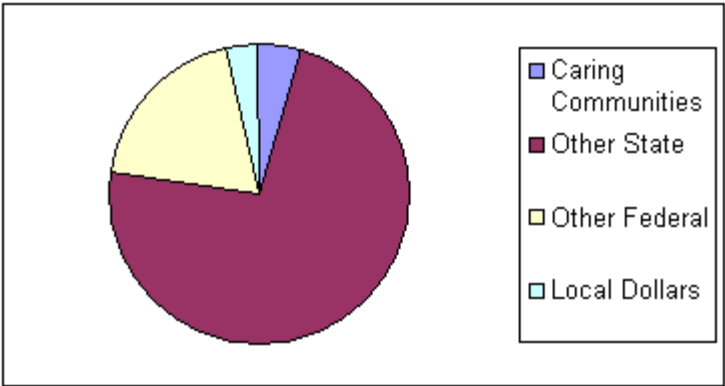
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“A Community Partnership of the Caring Communities Initiative”

Butler County Community Resource Council Core Result: Children succeeding in school Benchmark: Graduation Rate

February 2002



Caring Communities Investment

Objective

To increase the rate for persistence to graduation in the Poplar Bluff School District from 70.3% in 1998 to 80% by 2003

To increase the rate for persistence to graduation in the Neelyville School District from 79.4% in 1998 to 85% by 2003

To increase the rate for persistence to graduation in the Twin Rivers School District from 71.3% in 1998 to 85% by 2003

Strategies

What Worked?

A+ Schools

The A+ School program insures that student course choices are matched to a student career plan. Students completing all A+ program requirements (including attendance and GPA goals) receive junior college tuition for 2 years. The program improves persistence to graduation by making courses more relevant to students' future plans and by providing students with hope for a post-secondary education.

Alternative Schools

The goal of an Alternative School is to provide a comprehensive program to educate high school students who exhibit violent, disruptive or abusive behavior in the traditional school setting. Alternative Schools have allowed some students to graduate who otherwise would have dropped out.

School to Careers

The School to Careers program pulls together the activities of area educational institutions, private business and industry, and government agencies in an attempt to improve the graduation



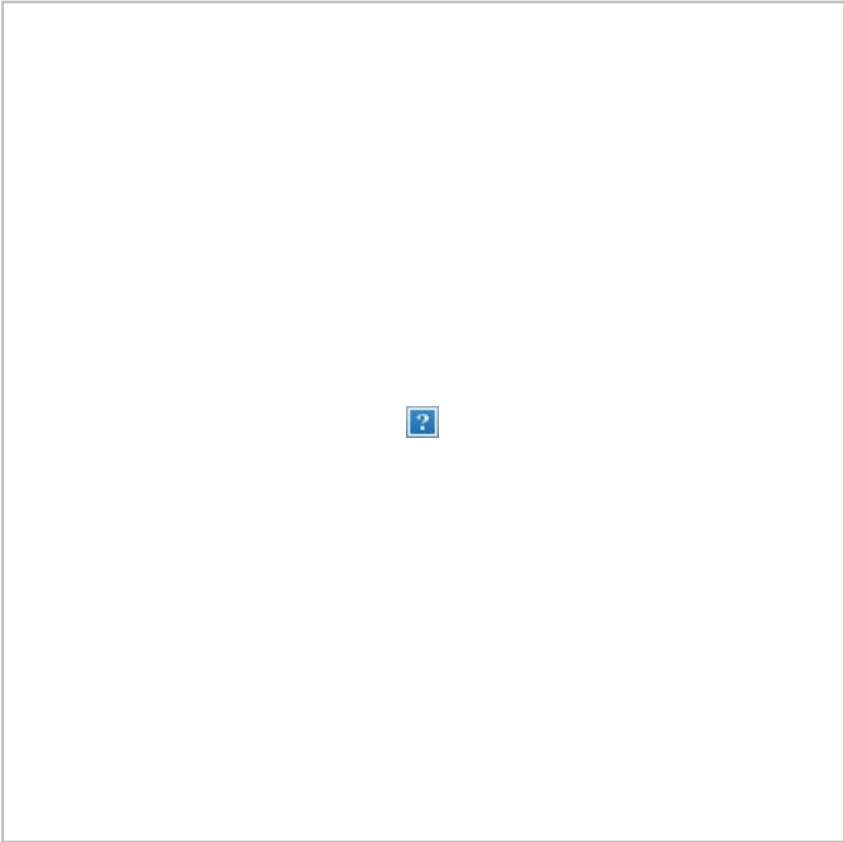
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rate, prepare students for the work place, and provide a smooth transition from high school to work. The program integrates opportunities for career awareness and exploration throughout the high school curriculum.

Results

Graduation rates have increased significantly in all three school districts in Butler County.



From 1998 to 2000, Butler County moved from 89th to 60th in the Kids Count rankings of county annual high school drop out rates.

Between 1998 and 2001, the three school districts in Butler County improved the persistence to graduation rate by an average of 6.2 percentage points compared to a Missouri average improvement of 3.6 percentage points.

Funding/Return on Investment

In FY01, Caring Communities funds were used to strategically enhance school district programs. The addition of Caring Communities dollars (\$16,500) to provide key program supplements, identified by the Partnership assessment process, increased the effectiveness of existing sustainable programs receiving \$334,041.00 in other funding. In FY02, these programs were sustained without any Caring Communities funds.

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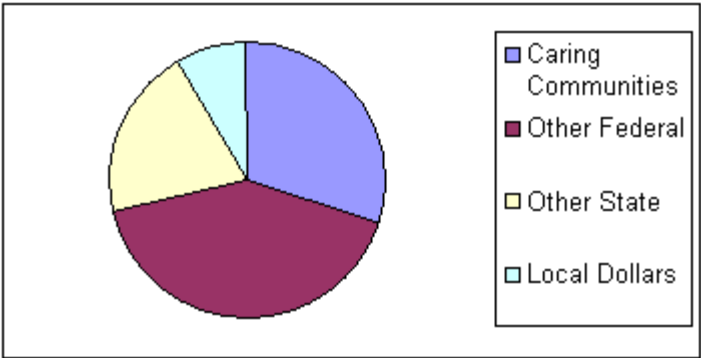
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“A Community Partnership of the Caring Communities Initiative”

Butler County Community Resource Council
Core Result: Children and families safe
Benchmark: Juvenile Crime Rate

February 2002



Caring Communities Investment

Objective

To reduce the incidents of violent crimes committed by juveniles (youth ages 10-17) in Butler County from 121 in 1998 to 60 by 2003 (50%reduction)

To reduce the incidents of drug charges against juveniles (youth ages 10-17) in Butler County from 42 in 1998 to 21 by 2003 (50% reduction)

Strategies

What works?

Case Management

The Community Partnership created a case management system for youth referred to the juvenile office. Selected youth are assigned a case manager who systematically analyses risk and protective factors in the youth's life. The primary intervention approach is to add protective factors (i.e. caring adults, positive activities) to the youth's life.

Mentors

The Community Partnership created a program in which community volunteer mentors are paired with youth referred by the juvenile office and area schools. These mentors work with the youth on a weekly basis.

After School Activities

Since most juvenile crime occurs in the early afternoon, after school programs are particularly effective in reducing juvenile crime. The Community Partnership has help create or support the Boys and Girls Club of Poplar Bluff, Operation Off Street (an after school drop in youth center in a high crime location), and the Fisk After School Program, and activities of Weed and Seed.

Coordinated Multi-Agency Interventions

The Community Partnership conducts regular inter-agency staffings on high need youth. The school systems, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Social Services and other



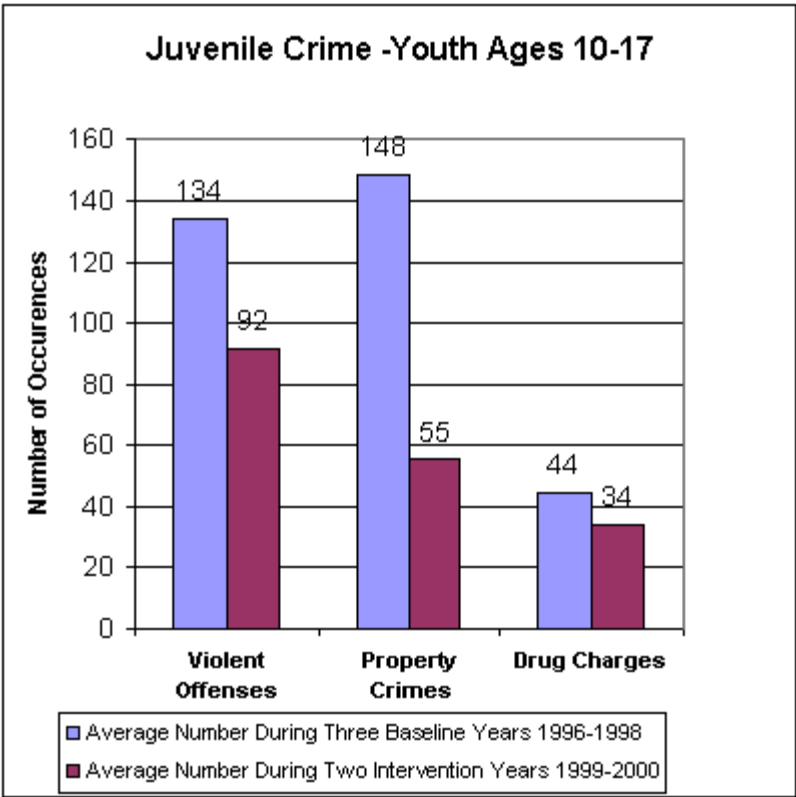
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agencies coordinate interventions with juvenile offenders.

Results

Juvenile crime rates have decreased significantly in Butler County.



Funding/Return on Investment

In FY 01, Caring Communities funds of \$67,000 were combined with \$90,000 of federal dollars (Weed and Seed), \$45,492 of other state dollars (Dept. of Public Safety and Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education), and \$18,200 of local funds (City of Poplar Bluff and private donations) to create a comprehensive and highly successful juvenile crime reduction strategy. In FY02, Caring Communities funds for these efforts were reduced to \$49,412. All programs were sustained in FY02.

Noteworthy

According to the Butler County Juvenile Office, the total number of youth referrals declined from 829 from 1998 to 456 in 2000, a 45% reduction in 2 years. The most recent Kids Count data available reports that juvenile law violations in Butler County declined from 123.8 per 1000 youth ages 10-17 in 1996 to 70.3 per 1000 youth ages 10-17 in 1999, a 43% reduction.

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“A Community Partnership of the Caring Communities Initiative”

Butler County Community Resource Council Community Profile

February 15, 2002

Dear FACT Board Member,

Attached are three reports from the Butler County Community Resource Council.

The Butler County Community Resource Council was formed in 1992. The organization is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation. The governing body is a 16 person volunteer board of directors. Over 500 individuals and 75 organizations are members of the Community Resource Council. The four officers and three at-large members are elected by the entire membership. The presidents of three site councils and six core result committees also serve on the board. The site council presidents and core committee chairs are elected by the members of each committee/council.

The majority of the work of the organization is done by the six county wide core result committees. Each of the core committees has twenty to thirty members. Some of the core committees are broken down into sub-committees related to specific benchmarks. For example, the Children and Families Safe Committee has sub-committees working on domestic violence and on juvenile crime.

The geographic scope of the organization is Butler County. Butler County has a population of 40,867. The principal city is Poplar Bluff with a population of 16,651. In 1999, the average annual wage was \$22,495, well below the state average. Twenty nine percent of our children live in poverty. The population is 92% Caucasian, 5% African-American and less than 3% other minorities.

The vision of the Butler County Community Resource Council is that all citizens receive a hand up instead of a hand out. The mission of the organization is to promote coordination between agencies, organizations, churches, businesses and schools in order to improve outcomes for children and families through the creation of a seamless, gapless, accessible service delivery system.

The community selected priorities for improvement through an extensive process of community meetings, surveys and focus groups beginning in late 1998. The first community plan went into effect in 1999. Benchmarks related to each core result have been selected. The latest community plan included over 70 research-based strategies. Priority benchmarks include the reduction of juvenile crime, the increase in percentage of students who graduate high school, the reduction of teen pregnancy and the increase in licensed daycare slots staffed by certified personnel. As the enclosed reports demonstrate, the community has been very successful in meeting its objectives.

In fiscal year 2002, \$329,384 of Caring Communities funds is resulting in a total leveraging by the partnership of \$1,356,740. This includes \$167,463 in local cash, \$154,971 in in-kind contributions, \$46,660 by the school system and \$658,262 in other state and federal funds. This is a leveraging factor of 4 to 1.

The results detailed in the attached reports have truly been achieved through coordinated community collaboration. Numerous organizations deserve thanks and credit. These include the



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Poplar Bluff R-I School District, Twin Rivers R-X School District, Neelyville R-IV School District, Southeast Regional Office of the Department of Mental Health, Butler County Division of Family Services, Poplar Bluff Public Housing Authority, Poplar Bluff Boys & Girls Club, Operation Off-Street, Butler County Health Center, Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission, Institute for Community Health Education, Missouri Mentoring Program, University of MO Extension Office, Project REACH, Poplar Bluff Area Adult Education & Literacy Program, South Central Missouri Community Action Agency, Missouri Career Center of Poplar Bluff, Butler County Juvenile Office, Southeast Missouri Community Treatment Center, Haven House Domestic Abuse Shelter, United Gospel Rescue Mission, Butler County Circuit Courts and the Butler County Commissioners.

In Butler County a truly successful community partnership has been established. The partnership feels confident in its ability to attract and redirect funds to improve county level outcomes as long as a basic infrastructure of a small coordinating staff can be maintained. This basic infrastructure can be maintained for \$218,000 in state funds. Although there are the usual obstacles associated with multi-agency collaboration the chief challenge truly is the funding of infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Sutton, Jr.
Executive Director

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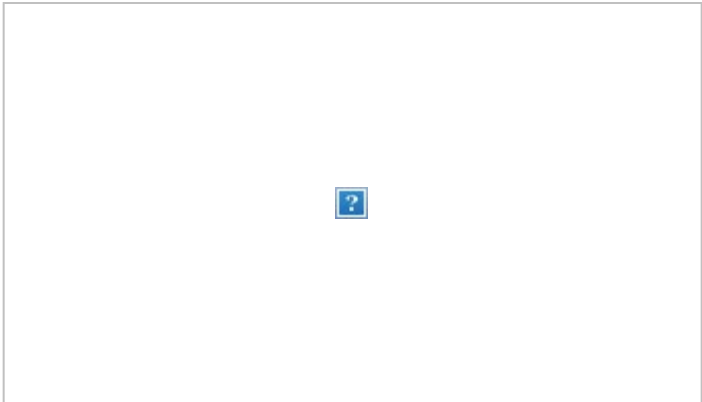
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Cape Girardeau Community Caring Council Core Result: Children succeeding in school Benchmark: Births to Teens, ages 15 – 19 (per 1,000)

February 2002



Objective

To decrease the rate (per 1,000) of births to teens, ages 15-19 in Cape Girardeau County from 31.5 (per 1,000) in 1999 to 28 (per 1,000) by 2003.

Strategies

The Community Caring Council has many members and staff who participate in the Teen Pregnancy Responsibility Network (TPRN). This is a long-standing network in Cape Girardeau County that provides abstinence education to youth. The purpose of TPRN is to educate the community about the problem of teen pregnancy and to educate the youth, both males and females, about responsibility. Projects undertaken by TPRN include school assembly programs, resource lending library, community awareness, speakers, and implementation of the Postponing Sexual Involvement Program in all of the area middle schools.

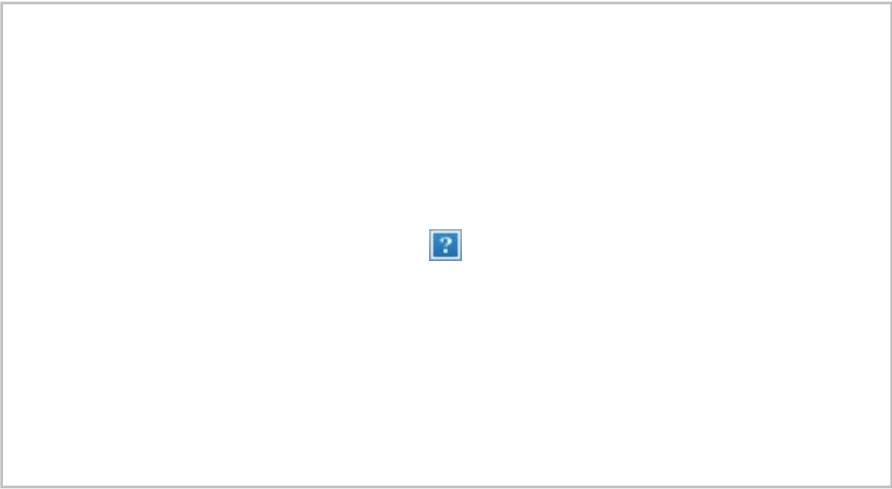
Caring Communities partners with the Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center to employ a full time Community Health Coordinator (CHC). The CHC provides educational programs on a wide variety of health topics. Two years ago the Cape Public Schools saw the need for more abstinence education to be taught in the schools, however, they did not have the staff to implement the curriculum. Caring Communities, the County Health Center and Cape Public Schools collaborated so that the school would purchase the curriculum, with the CHC implementing the curriculum. The curriculum used is Sex Can Wait and it is currently being taught in each 6th grade classroom in Cape Girardeau. The CHC also teaches educational programs on puberty and hygiene for the 4th and 5th grade classes.

Caring Communities partners with the Girl Scouts, Cape Public Schools and the Parent and Child Together Program to implement after school boys and girls groups. These groups teach responsibility, self-esteem and social skills. Each year a speaker is invited to speak to the groups on abstinence and the importance of setting goals for the future.

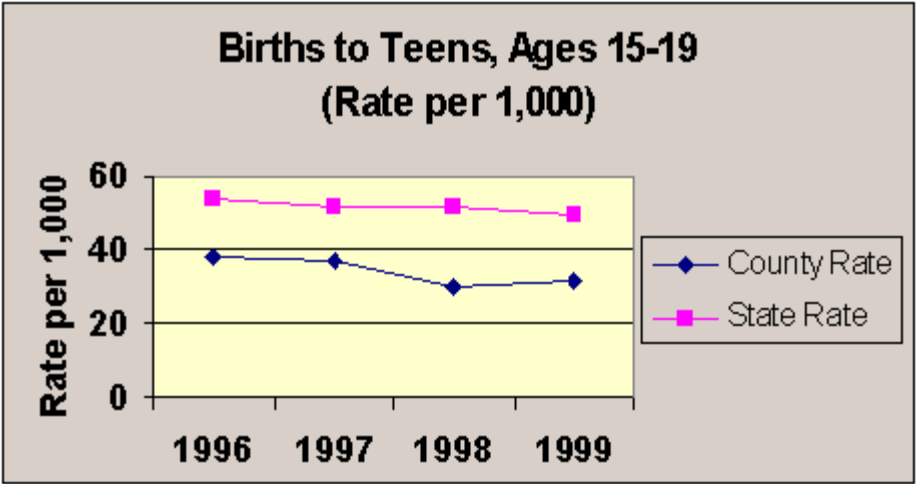
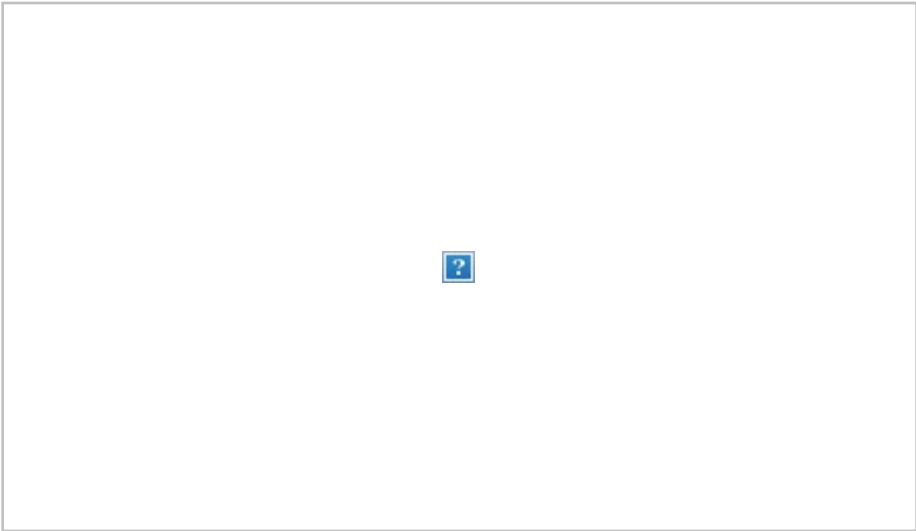


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Results



Funding/Return on Investment

Caring Communities Leverages \$2.50 for every Caring Communities Dollar Received to Reduce Teen Pregnancy.

Noteworthy

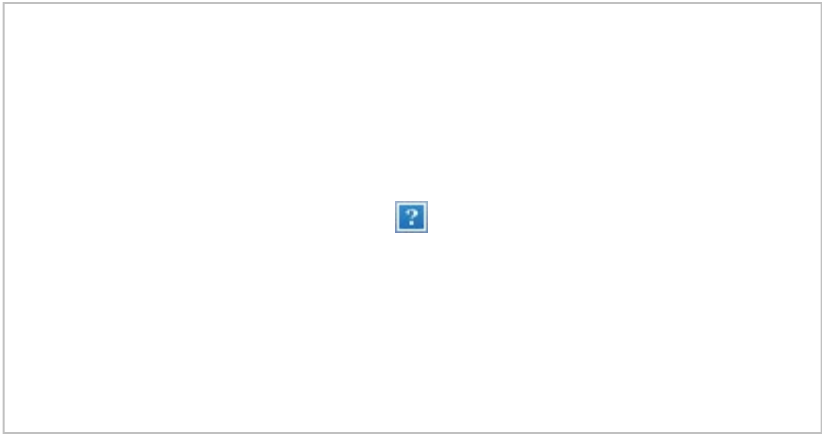
In 1995, Cape Girardeau County ranked 23rd out of 115 counties in the teen pregnancy rate, according to Kids Count Missouri. By 1999, we improved to 13th of 115 counties!

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Cape Girardeau Community Caring Council Core Result: Children and families safe Benchmark: Juvenile law violations

February 2002



Objective

To decrease the rate of juvenile law violations, ages 10 – 17, in Cape Girardeau County from 91.6 per 1000 in 1998 to 85 per 1000 by 2004

Strategies

Moving services closer to families and children:

Partnering with the county Division of Family Services (DFS) office and the local school district has brought DFS social workers into the neighborhoods and schools. The preventive efforts help to avoid a much greater incidence of out-of-home placements and juvenile law violations. The social workers conduct many home visits to help identify and meet needs of the family that otherwise would go unmet and lead to other compounding problems. This strategy requires no Caring Communities funding.

Partnering in the community:

The Inter-Agency Staffing Team (IAST) is a team formed by the partnership many years ago, with 13 agencies represented. The agencies meet twice monthly to staff and review cases for which all avenues have been exhausted. The IAST authorizes services and mentors for youth at risk of out-of-home placement. In FY00, the IAST added a new component targeted with keeping youth up to the age of 13 out of the juvenile justice system.

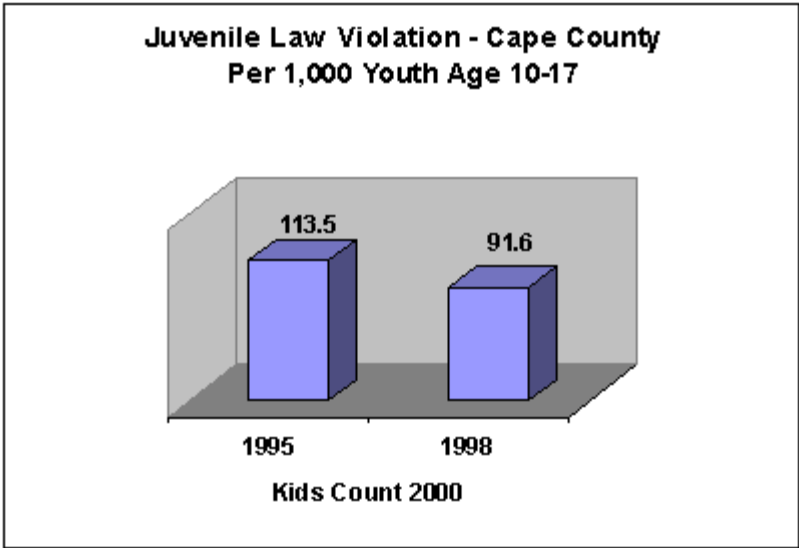
The Community Caring Council received a grant from the Juvenile Justice Department of Public Safety to lower the incidence of referrals to the juvenile courts. Locally, this juvenile delinquency prevention program is known as the PACT (Parent And Child Together) program. The partnership with the local police department and juvenile office has helped implement several strategies aimed at reducing juvenile crime, such as the Chief's (Chief of Police) Club, hiring an after school program coordinator to keep kids off the street and implementing the summer Gang Resistance Program.

Results



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Funding/Return on Investment

Cape Girardeau Leverages \$4 for Every Caring Communities Dollar Received to reduce juvenile law violations.

Noteworthy

It is also important to note that the Community Caring Council has been an incubator in identifying and implementing programs that help to reduce juvenile law violations. Three of these successful programs (Family Resource Center, First Call for Help Resource and Referral Service, and Court Appointed Special Advocates) are now self-sufficient as far as funding is concerned, with the help of the Area Wide United Way taking them on as a United Way agency. The Community Caring Council remains a committed partner with each of these programs.

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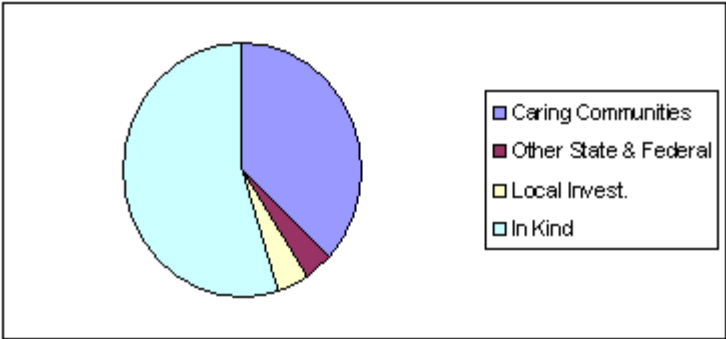
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Cape Girardeau Community Caring Council Core Result: Children succeeding in school Benchmark: MAP Test Scores (Communication Arts & Math)

February 2002



Caring Communities Investment

Objective

To increase the percentage of students in 3rd grade scoring in the top two levels in communication arts on the MAP Test by 5% in the following schools:

- Blanchard Elementary from 40% (SY2001) to 45% (SY2003)
- Franklin Elementary from 22% (SY2001) to 27% (SY2003)
- Clippard Elementary from 44% (SY2001) to 49% (SY2003)
- Jefferson Elementary from 13% (SY2001) to 18% (SY2003)

To increase the percentage of students in 4th grade scoring in the top two levels in math on the MAP Test by 5% in the following schools:

- Blanchard Elementary from 40% (SY2001) to 45% (SY2003)
- Franklin Elementary from 33% (SY2001) to 38% (SY2003)
- Clippard Elementary from 43% (SY2001) to 48% (SY2003)
- Jefferson Elementary from 24% (SY2001) to 29% (SY2003)

Strategies

Moving services closer to families and children:

By providing after school tutoring programs at the school site, approximately 20% of the student population is served. The fact that bus transportation is provided has improved enrollment and attendance. The tutoring program focuses on reading and math skills. Each student works with their classroom teacher to set individual goals. The tutoring program is very structured, with students being referred by their classroom teacher.

Social skills are a necessity to be successful in school and in adulthood. Without social skills, it is much harder to communicate effectively with peers and teachers. The administrative staff at Cape Public Schools saw a huge need for social skills training. They approached Caring Communities which was able to arrange for elementary teachers to be trained in the Boys Town Well Managed Classroom Curriculum. With the implementation of this curriculum, there has been



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a decrease in discipline referrals and out of school suspensions.

Caring Communities received funding from the local United Way and FACT to implement a FAST (Families and Schools Together) program. The purpose of the program was to enhance family functioning and prevent the target child from experiencing school failure. Various community/agency representatives collaborated to implement this program. The families and neighborhoods have been strengthened using this research-based approach.

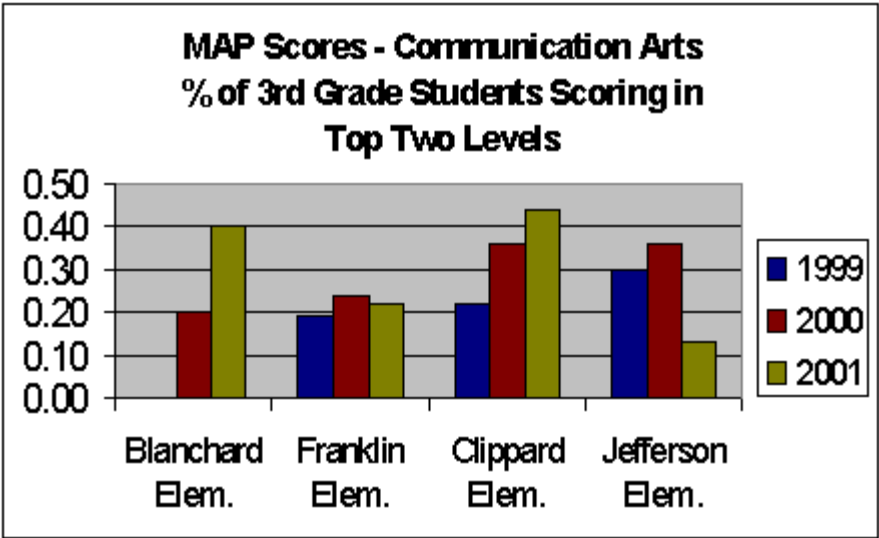
Active community involvement:

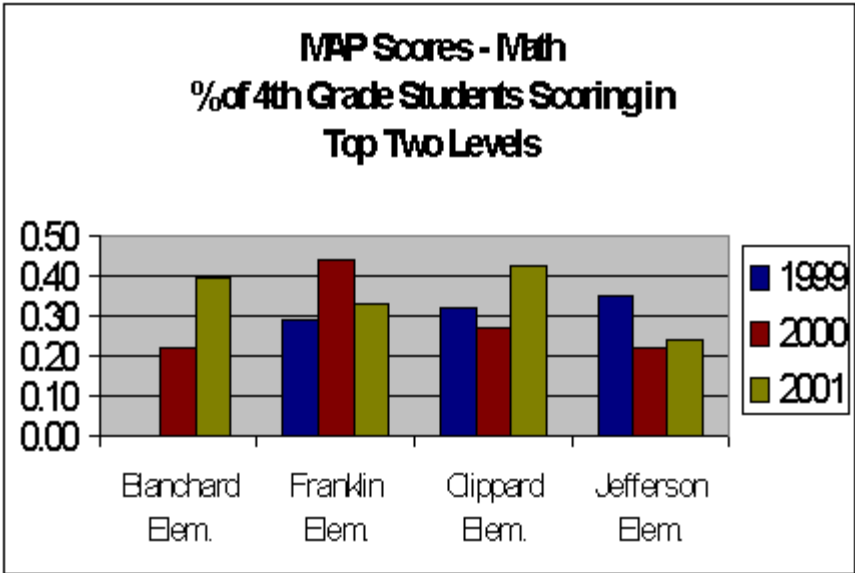
In the past, Caring Communities has implemented after school boys and girls clubs in the targeted neighborhoods. Last year, the Girl Scouts approached us with the possibility of them taking over the girls clubs, both programmatically and financially. At the same time, the partnership wrote a federal grant that allowed a part time after school coordinator to be hired.

The grant has thus taken over the boys clubs, both programmatically and financially. Caring Communities is now merely a partner in these programs instead of the coordinator.

The site coordinator at one of our sites identified a need for role models, as well as tutors, to interact one on one with students. This site had no structured tutoring program. A partnership was forged with the local university, which amounted to college students donating their time to spend at the elementary school. The Adopt-A-School Program has allowed students to receive tutoring time as well as a friend to lean on.

Results





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Cape Girardeau Community Caring Council

Description of Partnership:

Structure of Partnership

The Community Caring Council was founded in 1989 by State Representative Mary C. Kasten in an effort to encourage social service agencies and others to work better together to serve children and families. From the beginning, the Council decided to be a working organization and set up a structure of committees to address issues of concern in the community. The Council has a board of directors that is elected from the council membership and the community. The board of directors is the governing board for the Council and the programs/initiatives that it oversees.

When the Caring Communities initiative began in Cape Girardeau, the Community Caring Council authorized the development of a board of diverse community members to do the day-to-day work of planning, implementing and governing Caring Communities. The Caring Communities Resource Board has successfully brought the community together to make changes in systems that years ago, no one would have thought possible.

Geographic Scope/Demographics

The Community Caring Council reaches all segments of the county of Cape Girardeau, although the largest concentration of programs/services takes place in the city of Cape Girardeau. Cape Girardeau is the most populous county in the southeast segment of the State of Missouri. According to the 2000 census, there were 68,693 persons residing in the county, which represents an 11.2% increase from the 1990 census. Cape Girardeau is the largest community in the county with approximately 35,000 residents.

Mission Statement/Vision

The mission of the Community Caring Council is to better serve the needs of the total community by empowering families and individuals to become more self-reliant, responsible and resourceful.

Core Results:

For fiscal year 2002, the Cape Girardeau Community Caring Council's plan includes strategies around each of the six core results. This was decided upon by the planning committee as well as the neighborhood advisory councils (site councils) when they looked at data regarding their neighborhood. The biggest concentration of strategies remains to be centered on the core result of 'children succeeding in school.'

Budget/Leveraging Information:

The Cape Girardeau Community Caring Council, leverages \$4 for every Caring Communities dollar received. Caring Communities flexible funding represents 26% of the community partnership budget. These leveraged funds come from local investments, in-kind donations, and other state/federal funding.

Community Partners:

Currently, the Community Caring Council has more than 275 members, representing more than 98 agencies, organizations and individuals. There is a strong belief that a healthy community must have several components that work hand in hand for the betterment of all citizens. Cape Girardeau certainly has all of these components including a strong educational, health, economic, faith and social service system.

Successes:



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Being accountable for achieving results

The Cape Girardeau Community Caring Council and Caring Communities prides itself on the results that have been achieved in the community. For example, last year in Cape Girardeau County:

- 1) there were fewer violent deaths (ages 15-19);
- 2) fewer teenagers had babies;
- 3) more youth graduated;
- 4) there were fewer child deaths (ages 1-14);
- 5) fewer children were living in poverty;
- 6) more children had health insurance;
- 7) fewer youth committed violent or property crimes;
- 8) school attendance continued to increase, and
- 9) fewer children were suspended out of school.

The unemployment rate also continued to stay below 3%, with per capita personal income increasing by \$9,000 since 1990.

Bringing services closer to where families live and children attend school

One of the most basic concepts of the Caring Communities initiative in Cape Girardeau lies with bringing services to families versus finding a way to get the families to the services. This has been accomplished in a variety of unique ways, thanks to the partnership of many agencies and organizations. Caring Communities is embedded in neighborhoods where there is typically no access to services.

Services that have been brought closer to where families live and children attend school include mental health services, family case management, family activities and parenting education, social work services, health education and services, community asset mapping, tutoring programs and many more.

Active community involvement in decisions that affect their well-being

The Community Caring Council is a designated community partnership with more than 275 members representing 98 agencies, organizations and individuals, and provides a public forum on a monthly basis for addressing community issues.

Neighborhood Advisory Councils (NAC's) are established at each Caring Communities site and have representatives of the school, business partners, parents and citizens of the neighborhood. The work of strategic planning starts at this most grass-roots level.

Using dollars more flexibly and effectively to meet community needs

Community needs are identified at the grassroots level with community residents giving a voice to the focus of the partnership for the future. Local and state data are reviewed and discussed to further support the core results chosen as priorities. The Cape Girardeau Community Caring Council, leverages \$4 for every Caring Communities dollar received. Caring Communities flexible funding represents 26% of the community partnership budget. These leveraged funds come from local investments, in-kind donations, and other state/federal funding.

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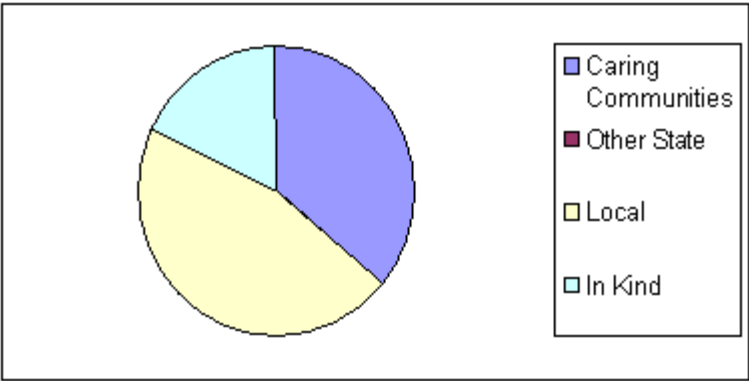
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Dunklin County Caring Communities Partnership

Core Result: Youth ready to enter work force
Benchmark: High School Graduation Rate

February 2002



Caring Communities Investment

Objective

To increase the Dunklin County high school graduation rate, from a baseline rate of 69.0 in 1996 to 79 percent by the year 2003.

Strategies

DREAMERS is an alternative school setting for students at the highest risk for dropping out of school. DREAMERS addresses the academic, social, and life skills high-risk students need to succeed in school. Programs emphasize career decision-making and promote increased academic success leading to a high school diploma. DREAMERS serves students in nine Dunklin, New Madrid, and Pemiscot County schools.

Career & Education Resource - Provides tools to ease the transition from school to work or higher education. The site coordinator, business teacher and case manager developed a library of materials to help students make a successful transition to higher education or employment after high school. A career and education resource library offers resources to students and parents.

Career Development Classes – Students complete applications, select interview attire and interview for jobs through role-play activities. The students learn about attitudes required to meet workplace challenges and to succeed in a rewarding career.

Reconnecting Youth - was implemented at Dreamers in 1999. Reconnecting Youth is a school-based, peer group curriculum approach that has proven effective in helping high-risk youth raise their grade point averages (GPA) and manage their anger, while decreasing drug use and depression. The research-based curriculum focuses on self-esteem, decision-making, personal control, and communication. By enhancing the personal and social protective factors of high-risk students, Reconnecting Youth will make a substantial long-term difference.

Yearbook Program - provides opportunities for students to acquire computer, desktop publishing and writing skills, while promoting creativity and community involvement as they



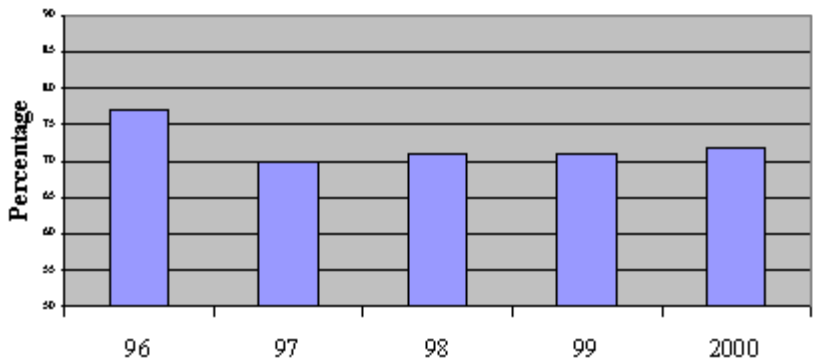
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develop a school yearbook.

Program Performance Measure

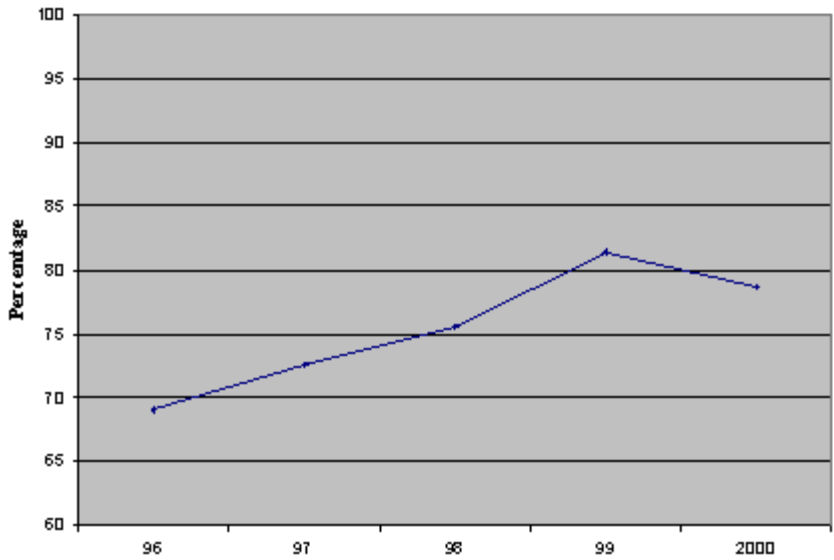
Percentage of Dreamers Participants (all High Risk) Graduating from High School, Continuing to Persist Toward Graduation, or Enrolling in GED Classes



Results

High school graduation rates are often used as an indicator of the success or failure of schools. **The Dunklin County graduation rate increased from 69 percent in 1996 to 78.7 percent in 2000!**

Dunklin County Graduation Rate



Noteworthy

In 2000, the percentage of Dunklin County students who entered a two or four-year college or university was substantially less than the state average. In 2001, the percentage of Dunklin County students who entered college had increased and the percentage of high school graduates who entered college was greater than in the state average.

Funding/Return on Investment

Dunklin County Caring Council has provided the Site Coordinator for Dreamers. This year, the Kennett School District is funding one-fourth of the expenses of this position. In addition, each school contributes an average of \$4,200 for each student whom they enroll.

Barriers

Youth need to be engaged in activities that allow them to be physically active. The lack of outdoor facilities at the Dreamer’s site requires the student’s to remain indoors all day. Outdoor facilities would provide enjoyable activities as well as other benefits of physical activity. Additional funding is needed to develop these outdoor facilities.

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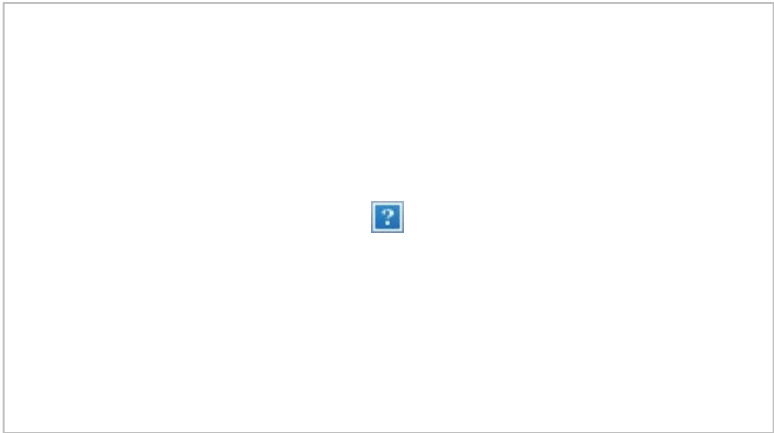
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Dunklin County Caring Communities Partnership

Core Result: Children succeeding in school
Benchmark: MAP scores Arts Communication

February 2002



Objective

To increase the percentage of 3rd grade students at Masterson Elementary School scoring proficient on MAP Communication Arts Test from 12 percent in 1998 to 20 percent in 2004.

Strategies

We know that to succeed in school all students need good reading skills. The Dunklin County Caring Council, Masterson Elementary School, and parents developed an innovative after-school program known as the Reader's Theater (implemented 1999). The program goal is to measurably improve the reading performance of first and second grade students by ensuring that children learn to read at grade level. Students attend two days each week. The program increases parental involvement in reading activities, improves reading comprehension and standardized test scores and provides links to caring adults. The STAR Reading Test is used to measure the success of the Reader's Theater.

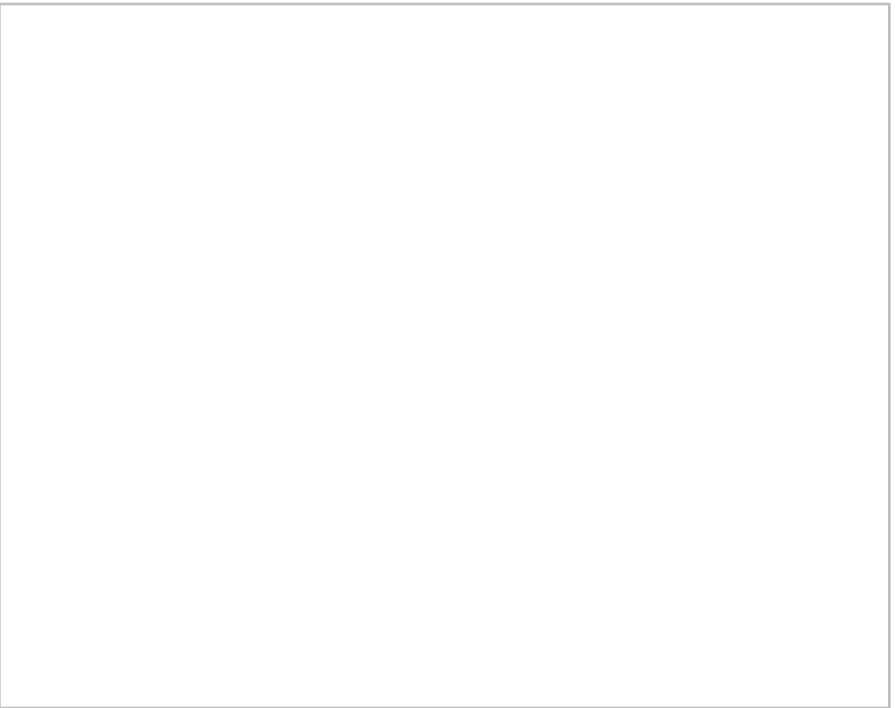
Students significantly improve their reading level!



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Results Reading test scores are important measures of students reading skills as well as indicators of overall school achievement. The percent of Masteron 3rd grade students proficient in Communication Arts increased from 12 percent in 1999 to 19 percent in 2000. Proficiency declined slightly in 2001.



Funding/Return on Investment Initially, Dunklin County Caring Council fully funded the Reader Theater Program. As the school district realized the value of the program, they increased their investment to over 50% funding.

Opportunity Our goal is to implement reading programs in all school districts in Dunklin County. The largest schools were chosen as pilot sites. As funding becomes available, additional schools will be added until all Dunklin County schools participate in the program.

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Dunklin County Caring Council, Inc.

February 15, 2002

Dear FACT Co-Chairs:

It is our pleasure and privilege to present these community level Core Result Reports in conformity with the reporting requirements of the Family and Community Trust.

Community leaders were first called together to discuss the obvious need to improve collaboration, address areas of concern, and develop new program approaches to build a stronger community in 1993. There was a strong belief that an alternative learning center for troubled youth should be a priority. After three years of planning, a Caring Communities Targeted Incentives grant was awarded and D.R.E.A.M.E.R.S. Alternative School became a reality for Dunklin, New Madrid and Pemiscot County schools. Believing that continued cooperation and collaboration between community organizations would lead to other services for children and families, the Dunklin County Caring Council began its pursuit for a partnership in 1997. The Council was recommended for a Community Partnership in March of 1998.

The governing body is a fifteen member Board of Directors and represents all segments of society. Members represent eight state agencies. Above all, we acknowledge the importance of these partners who have been crucial to our success. An Executive Director carries out the policies established by the Board of Directors. The mission of the Council is to link services and resources to enhance opportunities for children and families to achieve their highest potential. Dunklin County Caring Council envisions a community of strong families in which each individual will become self-reliant, responsible and resourceful citizens. Achieving this vision is measured by six core results:

- Parents working
- Children safe in their families and families safe in their communities
- Children and families healthy
- Children ready to enter school
- Children and youth succeeding in school
- Youth ready to enter the work force and become productive citizens.

Dunklin County, population 33,155, is located in the far southeastern part of Missouri. Children under the age of 18 account for 26 percent of the population and 5,295 children are under the age of five. One-third of Dunklin County children live in single parent families and 28 percent are minority children. Families from this area, known as the Bootheel, have historically experienced health, economic and social disparities. Dunklin County Caring Council strives to mobilize and organize community resources to support effective and sustainable programs that will eliminate these disparities.

This collaboration is making a difference in the lives of our children and families. By highlighting trends and comparing counties, Kid's Count provides valuable information about the condition of children in Missouri; it's 114 counties and St. Louis City. Based on seven outcomes, a composite county rank is prepared annually. From 1995 to 1999, Dunklin County ranked 112 out of 115. In 2000, the county's rank improved to 109 and the trend continued to move forward in 2001 as the county rank reached 107.

Acting on the belief that the family's ultimate success in life cannot be separated from the factors that affect their health, Dunklin County Caring Council has taken steps to tend to the needs of the whole person. The Council, educators and health and human service providers realized that they could unify their efforts and make health insurance coverage available for those who



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needed it most. The local outreach and education promotion relied heavily on partnerships with schools, social service agencies, and health care providers. Children with health insurance coverage are more likely to have a regular and accessible source of health care. The campaign obviously worked. In Missouri, Dunklin County has the lowest rate of inpatient uninsured children age 1 - 14. MC+ and Medicaid also provide coverage for eligible parents. The increased number of families who have health insurance coverage has resulted in numerous benefits. One example is the substantial decline in low birth weight births since 1997.

We believe the leveraging of dollars, both public and private, is the key to sustaining and expanding this initiative. Every effort is made to broaden the funding base through local cash and in-kind contributions, as well as state and federal contacts, to promote innovative resource sharing and to maximize results.

The Dunklin County Caring Council is actively planning for the future by focusing on the desired outcomes of young children ready to enter school, children succeeding in school, youth ready to enter productive adulthood, parents working and children and families safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Minnie Sanders
Executive Director

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Greene County Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Inc.

Core Result: Children Succeeding in School Benchmark: Absenteeism

February 2002



Objective

Decrease headlice related absences from 3,220 in 97-98 school year to 1,600 in the school year of 2001-2002. Decrease medical related absences from 3,394 in 97-98 school year to 3,070 in 2001-2002.

Strategies

Research indicates that student attendance and academic achievement are correlated. In addition, students who attend school regularly feel more connected to their neighborhoods and are less likely to drop out of school. Understanding this, the partnership developed these strategies:

- School Health Nurses: the nurse time was increased for more availability to the students and the community.
- Social Workers and Social Work Interns: workers were available in the community to help families address concerns that kept their children from attending school. Crisis intervention was available for families as well as services to help with basic needs.
- Attendance recognition programs: programs were established to recognize students who increased their attendance and also for students who had perfect attendance.
- After School Clubs: clubs were based on neighborhood needs, student request and teacher identified concerns. If the child missed school, then they could not participate in the club for that day. With additional volunteer support, the number of clubs and



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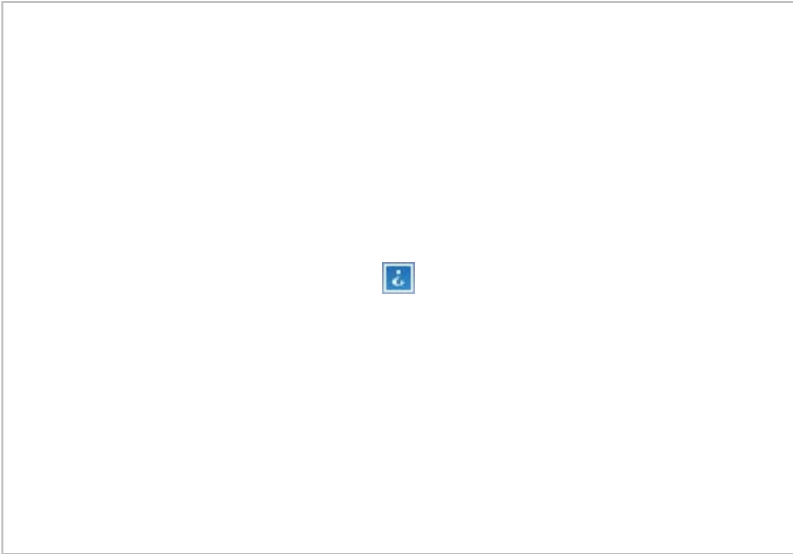
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- LINK School Based Clinic: In partnership with the Greene County Health Department, nurses are outsourced to the school site to provide preventive care to students who have no resources available to them. This preventive clinic has helped to increase access to care for families.
- Cox CAREMobile: Through a partnership with Cox Health Systems and the Children's Miracle Network, a mobile clinic is stationed in the Caring Communities neighborhoods providing preventive health services to residents.

Noteworthy

In community meetings conducted by the Caring Communities evaluator, residents of the neighborhoods served identified the School Health Nurse as their "primary" health care provider, indicating a lack of access in neighborhoods to adequate health care.

Results



Funding/Return on Investment

For every \$1 of Caring Communities flexible funds invested, there is a return of \$4.11 leveraged in the community. In addition, for every day that a student is in the classroom, the school district gains additional funding. The students gain additional education and an increased possibility for success. The community gains productive citizens.

Barriers / Road Blocks

Although these strategies have consistently shown positive results, the school district has not made the commitment to continue the strategies without Caring Communities support. However, for FY 03, the budget request under consideration does include financing to continue the strategy of School Health Nurses.

Systems reform/policy change:

Although we have been successful in leveraging resources in our community, we have had difficulty in getting the school district to pick up the costs for the strategies that have proven successful with their population. This is largely because Springfield Public Schools is financially strapped and does not have the resources to do so. It is imperative that, at the state level, consideration be made to support funding for School Health Nurses, School Based Social Workers and After-School Clubs that have proven to be successful in keeping children safe and in school.

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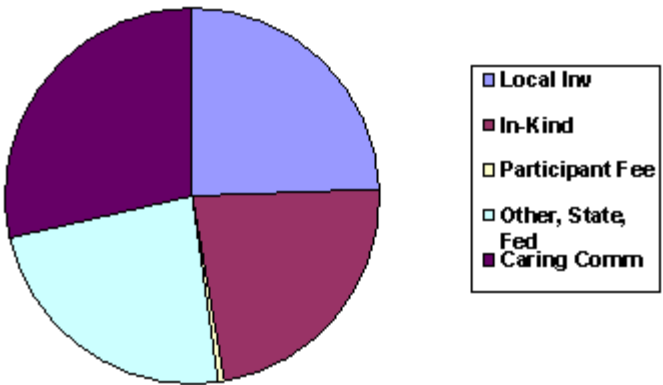


Greene County Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Inc.

Core Result: Children Succeeding in School Benchmark: Mobility

February 2002

Caring Communities Investment



Objective

Decrease the average mobility rate in Caring Communities neighborhoods from 70.8% in the 97-98 school year to 55.2% in the school year of 2001-2002.

Strategies

Research indicates students who attend the same school for a complete school year are more likely to achieve academically. In Greene County we have experienced high mobility rates due to lack of adequate housing, low wage jobs, challenging neighborhoods and a lack of comprehensive services. The following strategies were developed to provide a multi-dimensional support system to families in the impoverished neighborhoods:

- School Health Nurses: the nurse time was increased for more availability to the students and families in the community.
- Social Workers and Social Work Interns: workers were available in the community to help families deal with crisis situations and assist them in accessing community resources to stabilize their family. This support helped families to stay in their neighborhoods thus decreasing their mobility.
- Mental Health Services: through a partnership with Burrell Behavioral Health, therapists were made available at the neighborhood level to work with families and children in crisis to help stabilize their family and situation.



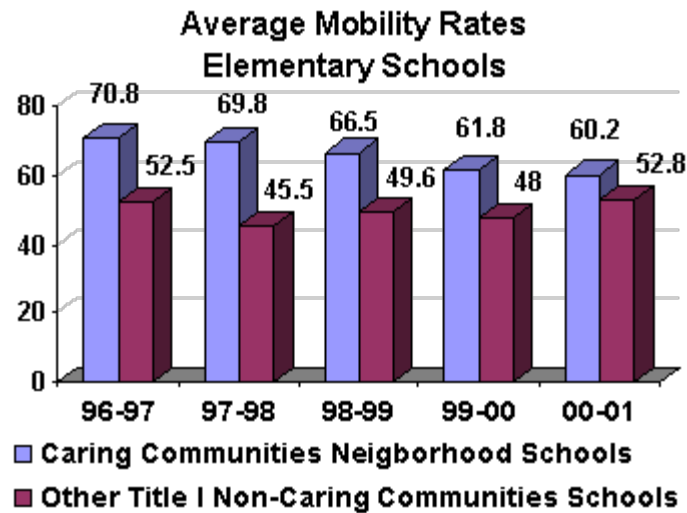
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- **Neighborhood Based Activities:** these activities involve neighborhood residents getting to know each other, thus decreasing their feeling of isolation. In addition, these activities helped to identify strategies that addressed neighborhood concerns that might otherwise have caused residents to move from the area.
- **After School Clubs:** clubs were based on neighborhood needs, student request and teacher identified concerns. If the child missed school, then they could not participate in the club for that day. With additional volunteer support, the number of clubs increased, as did the frequency with which they were offered.
- **FAST (Families and Schools Together):** this best practice strategy was utilized to help bring families together to offer support. The Greene County Partnership has consistently exceeded the evaluated norm for the program in regards to family attendance, retention and post-test scores for improvement.

Results

The chart below compares the average mobility rate between the Title I Caring Communities Neighborhoods and the other Title I Non-Caring Communities schools in the R-12 School District in Springfield.



As shown in the graph above, the neighborhoods of Caring Communities have consistently decreased their mobility. The greatest reduction has been the Boyd/Berry neighborhood decreasing from 127.2% in 97-98 to 105.7% for the 2000-2001 school year, a decrease of 22%!

Funding/Return on Investment

For every \$1 of Caring Communities flexible funds invested, there was a return of \$3.71 leveraged in the community.

Barriers / Road Blocks

Although these strategies have consistently shown positive results, the school district has not made the commitment to continue the strategies without Caring Communities support. However, for FY 03, the budget request under consideration does include financing to continue the strategy of School Health Nurses.

Systems reform/policy change:

Due to the consistent impact and positive results shown by these strategies, it is imperative that, at the state level, consideration be made to support funding for School Health Nurses, School Based Social Workers and After-School Clubs that have proven to be successful in keeping children safe and in school.

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Greene County Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Inc.

February 15, 2002

Established ten years ago as Ozarks Fighting Back, Community Partnership of the Ozarks acts as an umbrella organization that provides management and oversight for both service delivery projects and collaborative groups which wrestle with solutions to the complex problems facing our community. Through the nine grants and contracts and the fourteen collaboratives and task forces which we manage and coordinate, we link other agencies, organizations, and community interests into a network of collaborators focusing on specific areas of need, especially issues affecting youth and families. Our mission is to "Facilitate and promote community problem solving by coordinating and developing all available resources for the betterment of the community and its people".

The Partnership is governed by a 26 member Board of Directors, which meets on a monthly basis. Members represent education, government, law enforcement, health, business, media, the faith community, neighborhood associations and community agencies. United Way of the Ozarks acts as our fiscal agent. The Director of the Partnership reports to the President of United Way.

Our partnership covers 22 counties in Southwest Missouri, although Caring Communities is focused on Greene County. Springfield is the largest city that we cover, with a population of over 150,000. Although Springfield is 92% white, we are seeing a significant increase in the Hispanic population. Nearly all of our counties, including Greene, have shown an increase in child abuse and neglect as well as the number of students on free and reduced lunch.

However, most have recently demonstrated a decrease in the high school drop out rate. While we address all of the six core results, our emphasis is on the following four: children safe in their families and families safe in their neighborhoods; children and families healthy; children ready to enter school; and children and youth succeeding in school. These areas of focus were chosen based upon asset mapping, focus groups, needs assessments, school and community statistics, and extensive discussions with key community leaders and neighborhoods.

Through our collaborations with others, we have been very effective in leveraging funds to enhance state and federal dollars for Community Partnership projects. An excellent example of leveraging in action is seen in the Caring Communities initiative as outlined below:

Local Investment	\$1,220,075.00
In-Kind	1,302,608.00
Participant Fees	22,600.00
Other, State and Federal	<u>2,340,383.00</u>
	4,885,666.00
Caring Communities (flex funds)	<u>1,652,704.91</u>
Total Community Resources	\$6,241,442.91

Developing this leveraging capacity at the local level means more than just saying, "it's the right



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thing to do"; rather it is what we must do, and we are. Thanks to our hundreds of partners, we have been able to show a good return on our investment. Just as importantly, it is through collaborating with these partners that new ideas have surfaced, new solutions have been developed, and new opportunities have come our way.

It would take many pages to thank all of our partners who come from so many disciplines. However, we recognize our partners in the faith community, education, business, youth organizations, local foundations, law enforcement, government, healthcare, the City of Springfield and other cities within our 22 county region, civic groups such as the Junior League and service agencies such as United Way and the Chamber of Commerce.

The fact that we have such broad representation on our Board, the fact that we continue to increase the number of collaborations, which we coordinate, and the fact we are able to get the right people to the table to tackle new problems is the result of a new way of thinking. The community is beginning to understand that in working together we can achieve more than the sum of our parts. Systems reform is working in Springfield.

We are making a positive difference in the lives of children and families in Southwest Missouri. Examples include: more families successfully making the transition from welfare to work; an increased number of accredited childcare providers; a decrease in the number of underage youth purchasing alcohol; an increase in attendance and a decrease in disciplinary actions; residents reclaiming their neighborhoods and an increase in prevention activities in 22 counties. Other collaborative outcomes include a physician handbook on domestic violence, the Rarebreed Youth Center, the Child Advocacy Center and a GIS study to name but a few.

With the support of the communities with which we work and the dedication of our volunteers and Board, we will continue to meet the needs of children and families in Southwest Missouri. "The challenge for every organization is to build a feeling of oneness...because the question is usually not how well each person works but how well they work together."

Sincerely,

Melissa Haddow
Executive Director

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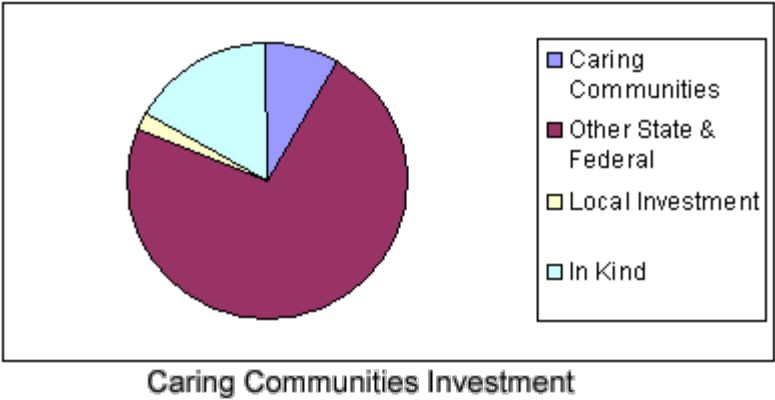
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Jackson County Community Partnership

Core Result: Healthy Children and Families Benchmark: MC+ Enrollment

February 2002



Objective

Improve health expectations for children and families by providing greater access to health insurance coverage. We expect to increase total MC+ enrollment 15% by August 2003

Strategies:

What Worked?

- Community Collaboration – LINC Health Committee provides a forum for community members, community-based organizations, and government to solve problems, share ideas, and present innovative services. The LINC Health committee consists of volunteers and emphasizes coordination among community provider organizations, neighborhoods, and government to create and maintain conditions conducive to better health outcomes for children and families.
- Targeted Outreach: LINC is using Missouri Dept. of Social Services administrative data and local school free/reduced lunch data to target those students who appear to be eligible for health insurance but are not registered on state insurance plans. Working through LINC's 61 caring community sites, outreach workers are concentrating on the school populations to provide information and assistance in applying for MC+ and Medicaid.
- Increasing access to health care: LINC utilizes many strategies to guarantee that families



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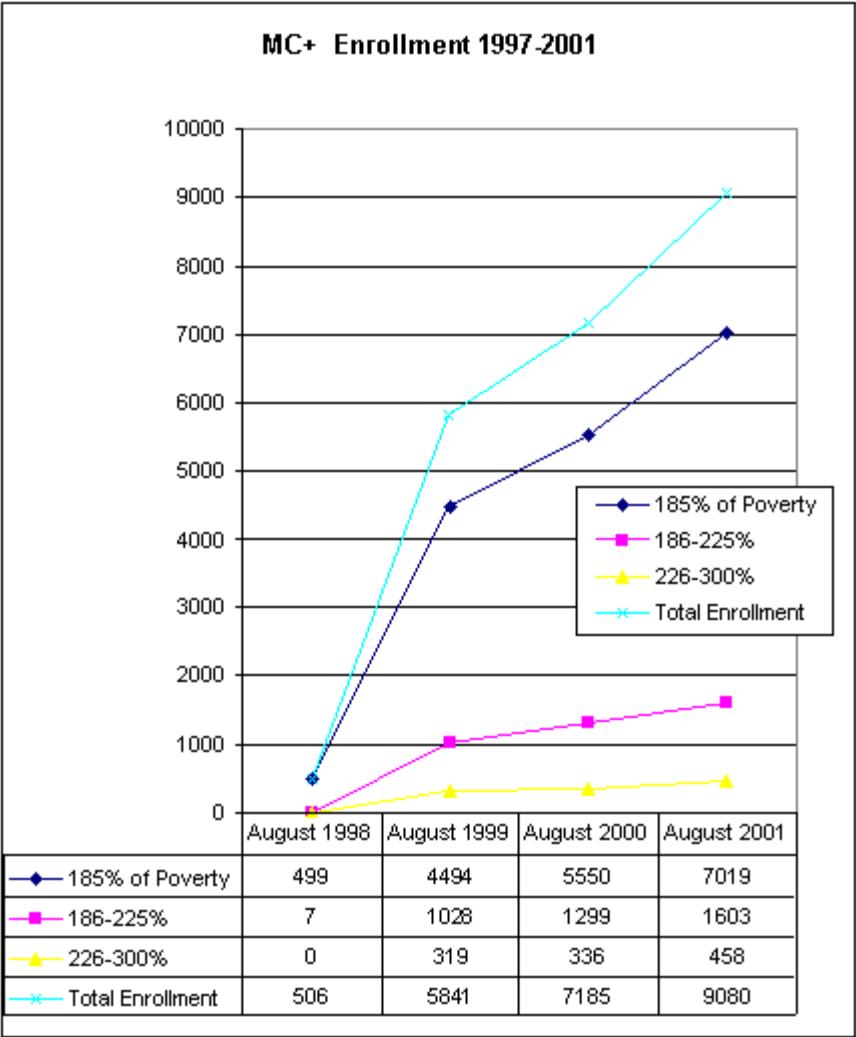
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and children have access to health care screenings, immunizations and health information.

- 1. Coordination of services – Caring community sites partner with many local health organizations to provide health screenings and services on-site.
- 2. School Liaison – Utilizing community members for outreach at school sites and in neighborhoods.
- 3. Providing technical assistance – Utilizing LINC's data capacity to provide targeted outreach; producing an informative video to provide information to families and communities.

Results

Jackson County has seen a 17-fold increase in MC+ enrollment over the past 4 years and is growing faster than the state.



Funding

LINC receives direct funding from the Missouri Department of Social Services and uses this to leverage funds and services with community partners.

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Jackson County Community Partnership

Core Result: Children Succeeding in School Benchmark: MAP Test Achievement

February 2002



Objective

Increase the percentage of students scoring in the top two levels on the MAP 4th Grade Math and 3rd Grade Communication Arts at the following schools in the Independence School District by 2004 as follows:

	Math		Comm. Arts	
	2000	2004	2000	2004
Bryant	46.8%	60.0%	36.4%	50.0%
Proctor	26.1%	40.0%	20.0%	40.0%
Randell	26.5%	40.0%	21.4%	40.0%
Sante Fe Trail	37.3%	55.0%	30.7%	40.0%

Strategies

What Worked?

- Community Collaboration – LINC believes that families and neighborhood residents are crucial to school success and that all children can learn. LINC works with the families, the

School District and community-based organizations to promote academic achievement.

- Integration and Planning: Emphasis in the Independence District has been placed on bringing Caring Communities support services and governance structures together with other school improvement efforts. Planning for Title 1 spending, Caring Communities planning, Early Childhood programming, Entrepreneurial Schools, and other efforts are fully integrated.
- Focus on Reading Skills: The Independence District has adopted a curriculum that emphasizes reading as the primary tool to further learning.
- LINC utilizes many strategies to promote academic achievement:
 1. Coordination of services – Collaboration among families, caring communities, the school district, and community organizations facilitates setting priorities for and delivering services to students.
 2. Attendance Initiatives – Utilizing parent liaisons, Winter Bus programs, and incentives to promote attendance because students who aren't in school don't learn.
 3. Expanding support services –developing services to meet specific student needs to improve learning such as conflict resolution, health services and tutoring programs.

Results

Elementary Schools which were also caring community schools showed dramatic improvement in 3rd grade Communication Arts and 4th Grade Math scores in the Independence School District over the past three years.

These Schools outpaced the district as a whole and the State of Missouri.

MAP Scores 1998-2001

3rd Grade	1999		2000		2001	
	Step 1/Prog.	Prof/Adv	Step 1/Prog.	Prof/Adv	Step 1/Prog.	Prof/Adv
Randall	35.8%	18.9%	26.2%	21.4%	13.5%	50.0%
Bryant	32.6%	17.4%	31.8%	36.4%	12.2%	56.1%
Procter	18.8%	35.4%	30.0%	20.0%	17.1%	37.1%
Santa Fe	23.2%	24.6%	21.3%	30.7%	12.7%	50.7%
Independence	33.1%	28.4%	33.2%	28.8%	20.4%	39.5%
Missouri	32.0%	28.8%	30.1%	31.7%	28.6%	31.6%

4th Grade	1999		2000		2001	
	Step 1/Prog.	Prof/Adv	Step 1/Prog.	Prof/Adv	Step 1/Prog.	Prof/Adv
Math						
Randall	22.0%	40.0%	28.6%	26.5%	17.4%	39.1%
Bryant	14.6%	36.6%	8.5%	46.8%	2.3%	55.8%
Procter	26.8%	24.4%	19.6%	26.1%	6.1%	54.5%
Santa Fe	31.8%	15.2%	18.7%	37.3%	19.1%	50.0%
Independence	20.8%	33.6%	22.3%	33.7%	17.8%	38.7%
Missouri	22.1%	35.3%	22.3%	36.7%	20.4%	37.7%

Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Red indicates better than both State and District as a whole.
Orange indicates better than State only
Italics indicates better than District only.

Funding

Funding for children succeeding in school is blended from multiple sources within the community. LINC receives direct funding from the Missouri Department of Social Services and uses this to leverage funds and services with community partners.

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Jackson County Community Partnership

Core Result: Adults Working
Benchmark: Persons moving from TANF to work

February 2002



Objectives

To reduce TANF caseload by moving people into employment—maintain level below 7,000 through 2003.

To reduce the number of TANF participants that receive assistance for 30+ months by 10% each year.

Strategies

What Worked?

- Community Collaboration--LINC provides a forum where volunteers, community members, community-based organizations, businesses and government solve problems, share ideas, and present innovative services. Through collaboration with emphasis on coordination, not duplication of efforts, LINC looks for methods that will best utilize a wide range of funding streams to build and maintain stable neighborhoods.
- Two-Track Approach: LINC stresses a two-track approach to welfare reform. The first works to move existing recipients to employment through intensive case management. The second works from the outset to provide new applicants with supportive services and access to employment resources to keep them from developing a dependence on public assistance.

- Removing Barriers to Employment: LINC recognizes that most TANF recipients want to work but face serious obstacles to maintaining employment. LINC has been instrumental in shaping a system emphasizing supportive services to ensure the success of those transitioning off welfare and keeping them from returning to the rolls.

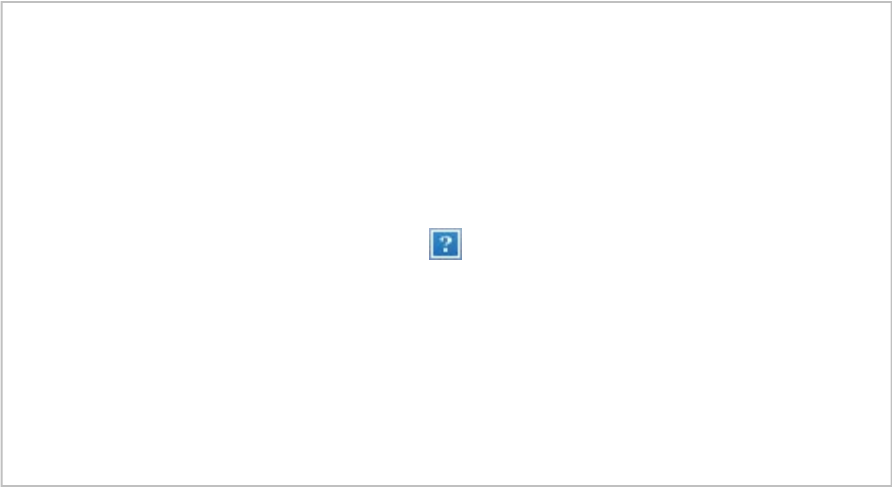
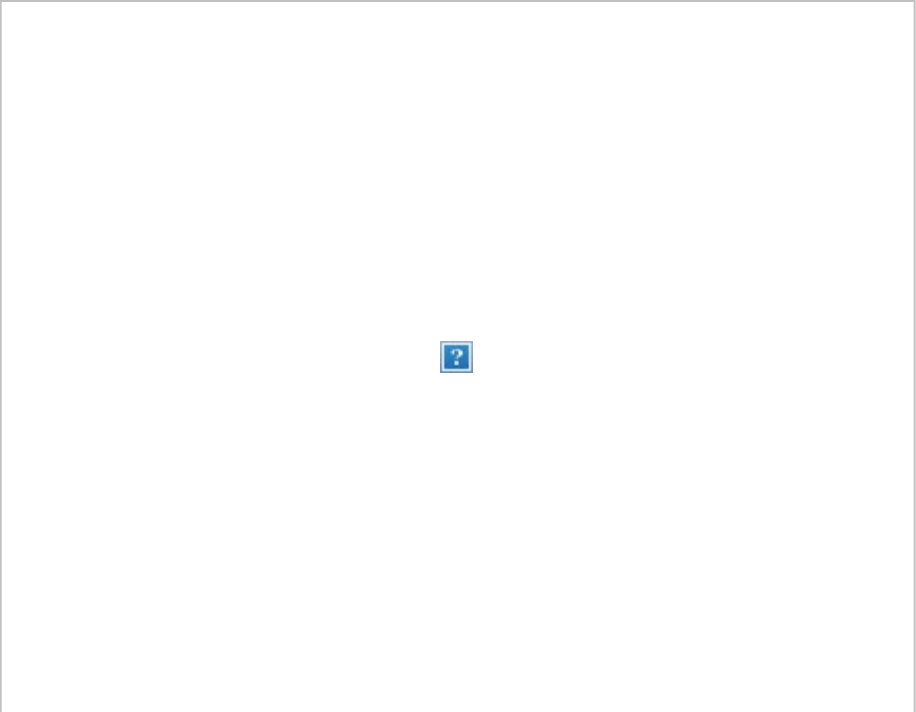
LINC utilizes many strategies to guarantee that families are making the decisions about what they need in order to succeed:

1. Coordination of services – collaboration among the state agencies and communities to address client needs and reduce duplication of services.
2. Mentoring – assisting clients to develop strategies to overcome their specific barriers to employment.
3. Expanding support services – developing services to meet specific needs such as access to transportation, childcare, GED testing, and housing.

Results

Jackson County’s average monthly TANF rolls have decreased at a faster rate than the state average, while the county’s recidivism rate is lower than the state rate.

Jackson County has significantly reduced the time-on-welfare for TANF participants. The number of TANF participants on for 30+ months has been reduced by 50%.



Funding

Funding for welfare-to-work is used to meet gaps in existing services rather than duplicate them. LINC receives direct funding from the Missouri Department of Social Services and uses this to leverage funds and services with community partners.

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Jackson County Community Partnership

February 2002

The Local Investment Commission (LINC) is pleased to share these performance reports on what LINC and its community partners are doing to improve the lives of children and families in the Kansas City, Mo. area.

LINC is a process to bring together, link, or leverage resources from the public/private sector, to ensure community governance, to identify and collaborate with those who do the best job addressing families in need and at-risk, and to hold all of us accountable for the results.

LINC, during its ten-year history, has consistently been willing to tackle community issues and needs as part of its citizen-directed system reform effort. The issues include: education reform, child welfare, welfare reform, early childhood education, children's health insurance, senior needs, after-school child care and neighborhood development.

These performance reports show some of what is truly being accomplished in our community. We appreciate the state's interest and support and the opportunity to be its community partner.

Sincerely,

Gayle A. Hobbs
LINC Executive Director

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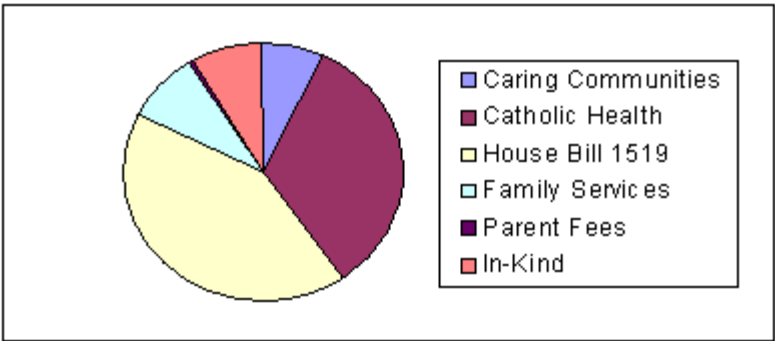
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SOUTHWEST MISSOURI COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Jasper & Newton Counties Southwest Missouri Community Alliance

Core Result: Youth Ready to Enter Workforce
Benchmark: Births to teen mothers

February 2002



Caring Communities Investment

Objective

Decrease the births to teens (ages 15 – 19) rate from 7.1/1000 to 6.1/1000 by 2005 in Jasper County and 6.1/1000 to 5.1/1000 by 2005 in Newton County.

Strategies

Research indicates that the most effective programs in preventing teen pregnancy are those that are multi-component and comprehensive in nature. The multi-component program design focuses on a number of at risk indicators including lack of student supervision, education, and parent-child communications.

A collaborative of fourteen different entities was created to address program development: The Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Support Initiative. A five-year comprehensive plan has been developed for our two-county area that includes student education, family communication education, and community education.

Included in this strategy:

- A daycare center for children 0-3 at the Webb City Franklin Early Childhood Center/Webb City School District
- Increased use of abstinence-based materials in schools
- Parent-Teen workshops
 - Two parent-teen workshops have been conducted, serving 39 parents and teens.
- Media campaign

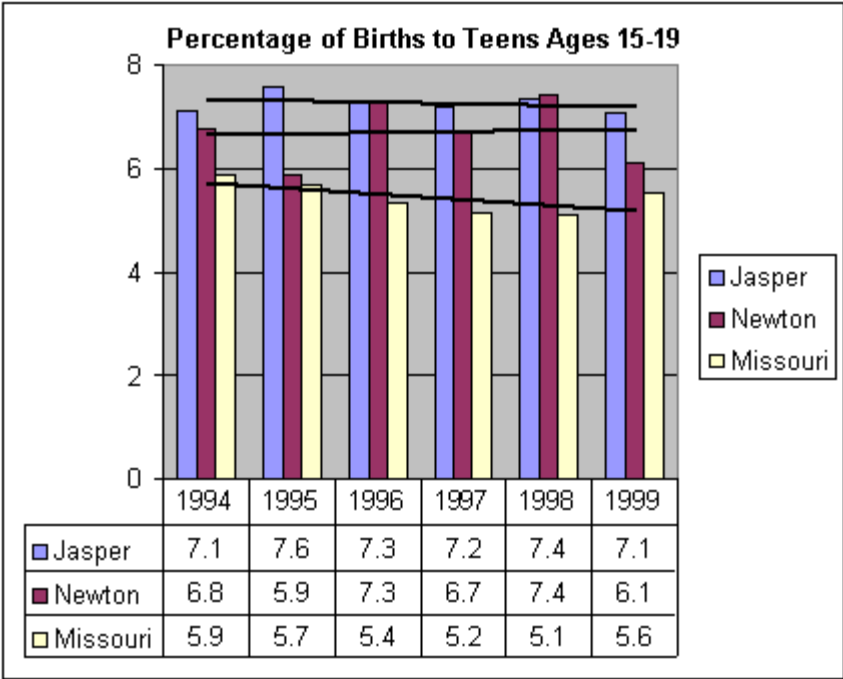


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- 18 billboards were displayed, 800% more than last year.
- o 196 radio advertisements/public service announcements aired. Before this year, none had been aired.
 - o 1,120 movie theater slides were shown before he beginning of the movie in area theaters. Before this year, none had been shown.
 - o 228 television advertisements/public service announcements aired. Before this year, none had been aired.

Results



- The pregnant student female population has decreased by 88% YTD in one targeted school, Seneca, which served as one of our pilot schools. Other targeted schools have not had the curriculum in place long enough to expect outcomes.
- 73% of the school districts and private schools in the two-county area have adopted Virtuous Reality curriculum.
- 91% of students who received Virtuous Reality education reported they learned the benefits of waiting until they are married to have sex.
- 77% of students reported that the best way for a person to keep from getting AIDS or other STDs was to wait until they are married to have sex.

Funding/Return on Investment

The majority of funding for The Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Support Initiative is from a Catholic Health Initiative grant. The in kind contribution for this initiative is in excess of \$1M per year (not reflected in chart).

House Bill 1519 provided the majority of funds for the Fall 1999 start-up of the Franklin Daycare. Since then the amount of Caring Communities dollars to support the project have diminished.

Because these young mothers have returned to school, the Webb School District has seen an increase in daily attendance of eight students. This translates to approximately \$2850/student over the course of the year.

Noteworthy

The director and teachers at Franklin Daycare develop wonderful relationships with the mothers of the children. It is an excellent mentoring opportunity. For some it is the only “mother” training they receive.

Barriers / Road Blocks

- Due to the age of the children at Franklin Daycare, the teacher/child ratio must be kept at 1:4, and this is expensive. Most childcare facilities are larger with more children and the ratio can be as high as 1:10 with older children. This helps to cover the cost of having smaller ratios for infants and toddlers.
- Most grants will not allow the use of their funds for salaries, our greatest need.
- School districts are hesitant to search out local funding for a specific program such as this one.
- Communities still hesitate to openly address issues around teen pregnancy.

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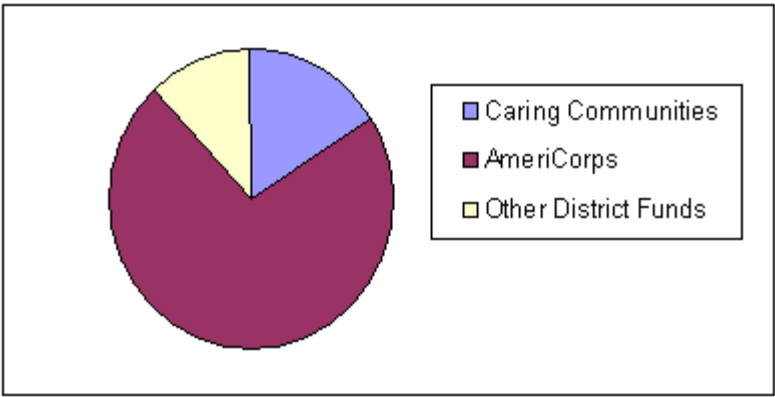
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SOUTHWEST MISSOURI COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Jasper & Newton Counties Southwest Missouri Community Alliance

Core Result: Children succeeding in school
Benchmark: Student Achievement on MAP Tests

February 2002



Caring Communities Investment

Objective

Increase by 5% the number of Seneca students scoring “proficient” by 2004

Increase

- 3rd grade communication from 31.4% to 36.4%
- 3rd grade science from 49.3% to 54.3%
- 4th grade math from 36.4% to 41.4%
- 4th grade social studies 33.3% to 38.3%
- 7th grade communication from 33% to 38%
- 7th grade science from 7.4% to 12.4%
- 8th grade math from 11.9% to 16.9%
- 8th grade social studies from 32.6% to 37.6%

Strategies

Seneca provides after school programs to its students using a variety of resources: 21st Century funding, Accelerated Reader Program K-12, AmeriCorps volunteers, etc. With the addition of early evening bus routes, an average of 100 students are able to remain at school and participate in remediation and enrichment activities. These bus routes have been operating since fall 1999. The combined efforts put into these activities should result in a marked improvement in scores.



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Funding/Return on Investment

The Seneca School District has a great deal invested in its after school program. A wide variety of program dollars and in kind service contribute to its success.

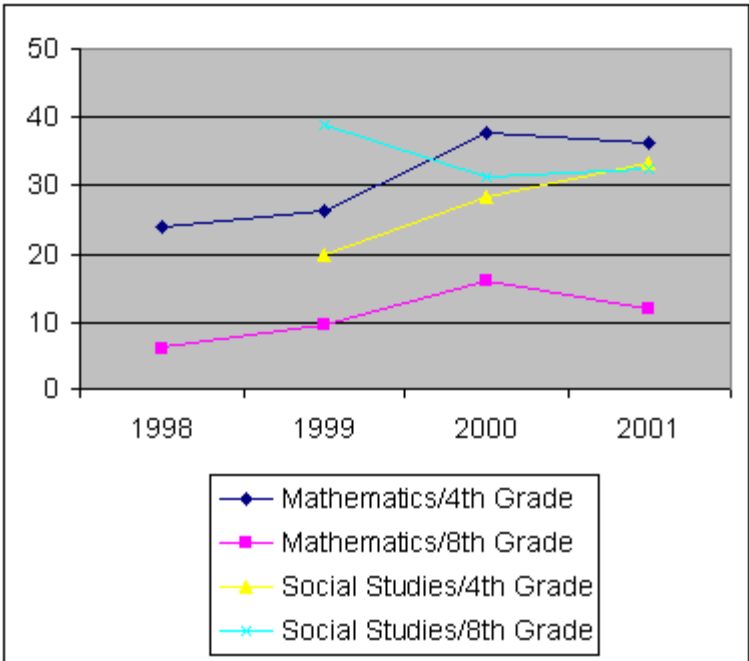
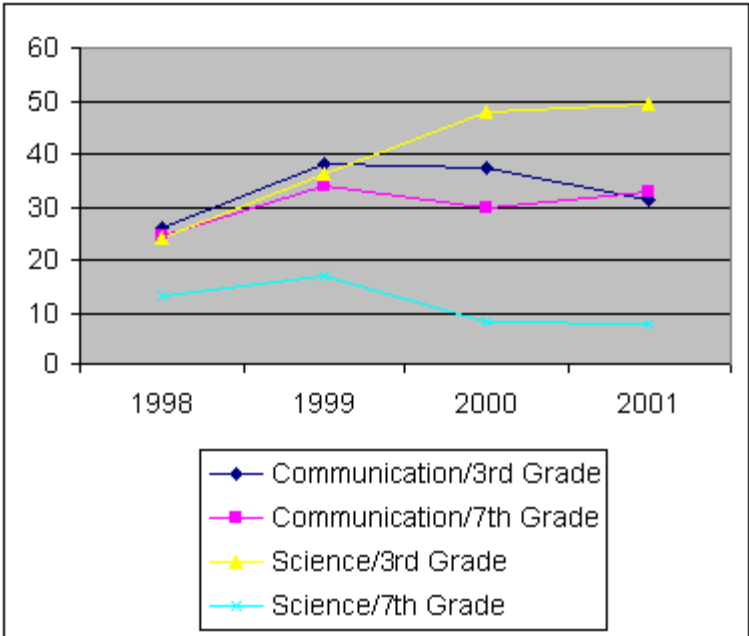
Barriers / Road Blocks

We do know that if we cannot get the students to participate in remediation and enrichment programs, we will not see great improvement. In a rural community such as Seneca where the majority of the students ride the bus, providing after school transportation is essential. Specific funding set aside by DESE for just this purpose would be very beneficial.

Results

As can be seen most areas are showing some improvement. Graphs show number of students scoring “proficient” in designated areas.

Seneca R-VII MAP Scores



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SOUTHWEST MISSOURI COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Jasper & Newton Counties Southwest Missouri Community Alliance

February 15, 2002

Dear Co-Chairs:

Southwest Missouri Community Alliance is a two-county Caring Communities Partnership. Jasper County is home to 104,600. Newton County is a rural county directly south of Jasper County with a population of 52,600.

SWMCA is currently working with six communities in Jasper and Newton Counties

	School Population	Community Population
Carl Junction	2,548	5,294
Carthage	3,612	12,668
Joplin	7,299	45,504
Neosho	4,072	10,505
Seneca	1,651	2,315
Webb City	3,452	9,812

Mission Statement

Southwest Missouri Community Alliance is a forum providing leadership to facilitate communication and collaboration in the Jasper/Newton community through exchange of information, education, and resources.

The SWMCA Board of Directors is comprised of twelve members representative of both counties. In addition, a Local Resource Team works closely with the partnership. Site Councils oversee and facilitate activities at the community/school level.

The Southwest Missouri Community Alliance and its local site councils are addressing four of the six core results. The prioritization of core results was accomplished through the use of surveys.

- Children and Families Health
- Children and Families Safe
- Children/Youth Succeeding in School
- Youth Ready to Enter Productive Adulthood

Southwest Missouri Community Alliance in collaboration with its sixty partners has been able to leverage \$3 for each of its Caring Communities dollars. These are dollars that have been generated through joint community efforts to directly meet needs within our community.

SWMCA has been a pioneer and leader in collaborative efforts in Jasper and Newton Counties for three years. Focus areas have been teen pregnancy, health, a youth shelter, and



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homelessness. Additional collaboratives are in early stages of development at both the two-county and community levels.

Our greatest asset is our ability to bring people to the table to address their issues of concern. Our greatest desire is to improve the quality of life for the children and families in our two-county area. Our greatest anxiety is that we will lose our capacity to facilitate.

Most sincerely,

Connie Mosbaugh
Director

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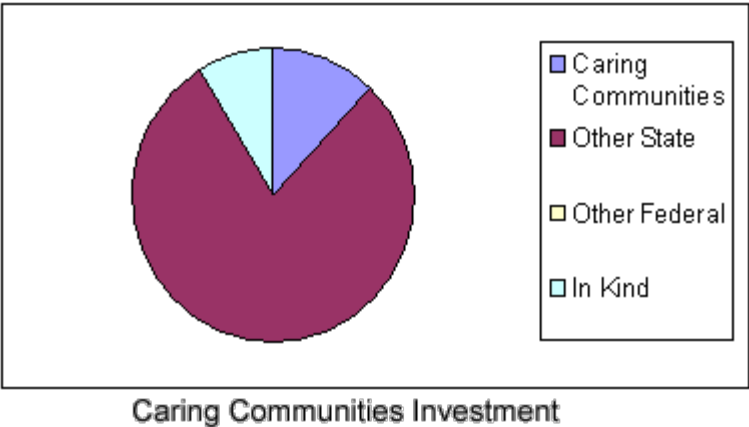
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Jefferson County Community Partnership

Core Result: Young children ready to enter school
Benchmark: Kindergarten Readiness Test Scores

February 2002



Objective

To increase the percent of children at the Vineland Site in De Soto testing “ready” for kindergarten from 77% in 2001 to 82% by 2003. (5% increase)

Strategies

The Vineland community has implemented the following preschool information & resource programs that have contributed to increasing children's readiness to enter school:

Day in the Life of a V.I.P. (implemented in 1999 at Vineland Site) – This Kdg. Readiness Program that provides preschool families with hands-on experience in the Kdg. setting, school supplies, information, resources & free books the year prior to their children entering school. Parent surveys conducted prior to kindergarten entry indicate that participating children and parents had an increased level of confidence about the child beginning school.

Parents As Teachers Early Screening for 3-4 yr. Olds (Implemented in 1999 in De Soto Community) – Caring Communities partnered with P.A.T. to increase the participation in this P.A.T. program that helps identify developmental delays early. De Soto Schools, P.A.T., DFS, and Caring Communities work together to increase advertisement of the program at other community events. Resources are also distributed to help prepare the children for school.

Educare – (Implemented in 1999) Educare offers training to childcare providers. The goal of the program is to increase children’s developmental skills by increasing the abilities of the providers. The success of this program in De Soto and the request for services by other Jefferson County providers has resulted in expansion to include five more school district communities. In FY2001, there was a 252% increase in the number of children who benefited from this service to their providers!

The Parenting Network – TPN acts as a resource for low-income stay-at-home parents. It offers trainings relevant to parenting and free educational materials and books. (Implemented in 1999)

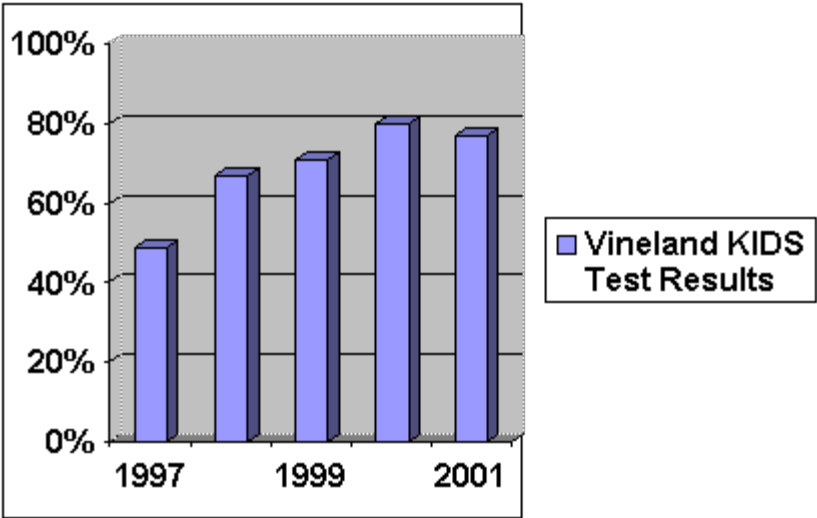


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Results

Vineland's Kindergarten Readiness (KIDS) Test Scores have improved from 49% of children testing "ready" in 1997 to 77% in 2001.



Funding/Return on Investment

Funding for these strategies has been provided by the De Soto School District, the Danforth Foundation, Parents As Teachers, DSS (Educare), HB 1519 (Parenting Network), Caring Communities and local in-kind contributions. Due to the success of the Day in the Life of a V.I.P. and P.A.T. screening, **the community will fully support these programs in FY 2003**. This demonstrates how Caring Communities start-up dollars leverages community support!

Noteworthy

Vineland's "school readiness" team members attended a celebration in August 2001 held by the Danforth Foundation. Vineland was one of four communities nationwide chosen to share their success and experience.

Barriers / Road Blocks

It has been a challenge to examine the school readiness issue on a countywide basis as there is no consistent measure used county wide and data must be collected manually. This presents a great barrier as Jefferson County has 11 school districts and many sites within those districts. There is a need for a mandated school readiness test or measure in the state of Missouri and a way to collect that data.

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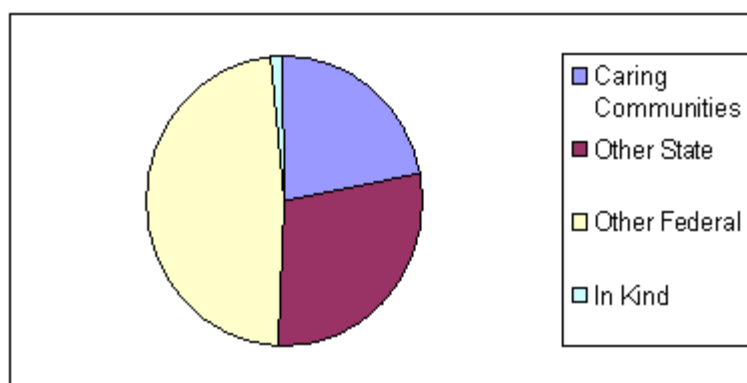
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Jefferson County Community Partnership

Core Result: Children succeeding in school Benchmark: MAP Test Scores for Communication Arts (3rd & 7th Grade)

February 2002



Caring Communities Investment

Objectives

To increase the MAP Communication Arts scores for third graders in the De Soto School District from 26% scoring proficient or advanced in 2001 to 29% in 2003.

To increase the MAP Communication Arts scores for seventh graders in the De Soto School District from 27% in 2000 to 30% in 2003.

Strategies

The De Soto community has implemented the following strategies addressing some vital components of school success - attendance, reading success and parental involvement:

Head Lice Initiative – (Implemented in Spring 2000)

Through this initiative a Community Support Worker assists in head checks at the elementary schools in De Soto and provides resources to families with chronic head lice. In addition, home visits are made to educate families about methods necessary to rid homes of head lice.

As a result of this strategy, school absences due to head lice has decreased from 793 in 1999 to 259 in 2001. This increased attendance increases the opportunity for learning to take place.

Tutoring Initiative – (Implemented in 1999)

Two tutoring approaches have been implemented at the two elementary schools in De Soto. One of the programs targets those children who are not performing well, but do not test low enough to qualify for special services. The other program is a peer-tutoring program, in which 5th and 6th grade students tutor the younger children. Post tests results and surveys completed by tutors, classroom teachers and parents indicate improvement in grades for participants.

Practical Parenting Partnership – (Implemented in 1999)

Practical Parenting Partnership (PPP) workshops are conducted at the elementary schools in De Soto, and involve families of children ages pre-kindergarten through 6th grade. The monthly workshops consist of activities that foster positive interactions between parents, child and school



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staff. Parents and children are given resources that aimed at increasing school success for the students. Data from the schools have shown participating students displaying good grades and school attendance.

Summer Enrichment Program (Transportation) – (Implemented in 1998)

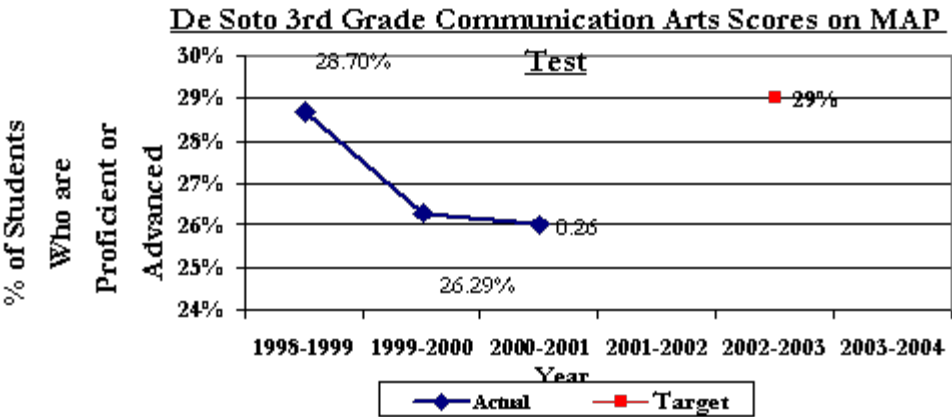
Through seed money from Caring Communities, transportation is provided for students in Kdg. through grade 6 for the Summer Enrichment Program. With the increased attendance that has resulted from providing this service, the school district has increased their funding for transportation each year and will sustain the service beginning in the summer of 2003.

Last year, reading program participants began taking pre- and post-tests to monitor the effectiveness of the class, and about 90% of the first group tested displayed marked improvement. In addition to contributing to academic success, the Summer Enrichment Program provides children in De Soto with constructive activities at a time when they often remain unsupervised.

The positive effects of the program have been supported through the results of the parent surveys that are completed after each program. The parents have also emphasized the importance of the transportation component to the program.

Results

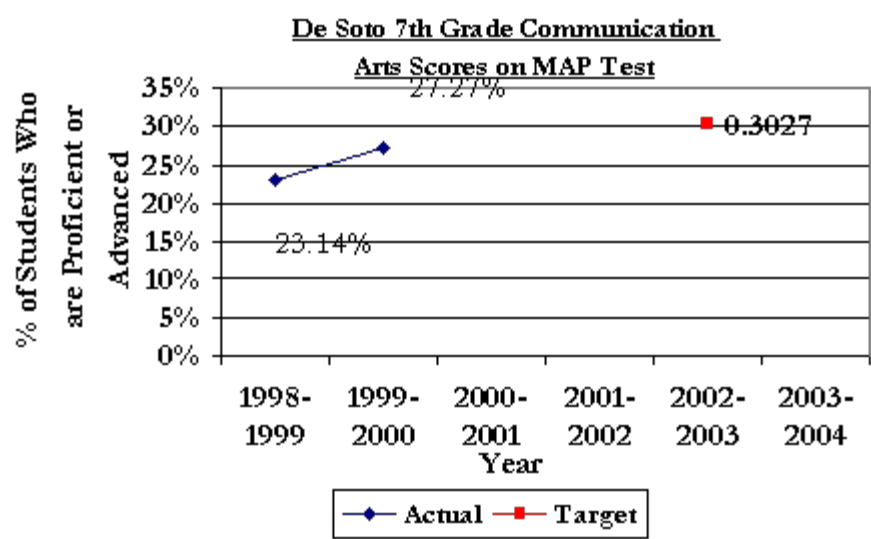
In the past several years, school performance among children in the De Soto School District has been less than ideal. The De Soto Caring Communities Team examined the benchmarks for children succeeding in school. Below are current trends for student scores for MAP Test for Communication Arts (3rd & 7th grades).



Sources: DESE Annual Report

De Soto School District

While the percentage of Missouri's 3rd grade students scoring proficient or advanced on MAP tests for Communication Arts increased from 28.82% to 31.71%, De Soto's students' scores have decreased from 28.7% to 26%.



Source: DESE Annual Report

The percentage of 7th grade students in De Soto scoring proficient or advanced on the MAP Communication Arts tests has increased from 23.14% to 27.27% between 1998-99 and 1999-00 school year. *Note: data for 2000-2001 unavailable at time of report. While this is a large increase, these scores still remain lower than Missouri’s average (which increased from 30.48% to 32.28% during this period).

Funding/ Return on Investment

Funding for these strategies has been provided by the De Soto School District, Catholic Services, Jefferson County Health Dept. Jefferson Memorial Hospital, De Soto Schools Parent Organizations, local businesses, Americorps*Vista, and Caring Communities. All of these strategies will be sustained within the community in Fall 2002.

Noteworthy

The learning opportunities provided due to increased attendance that have resulted through the head lice initiative.

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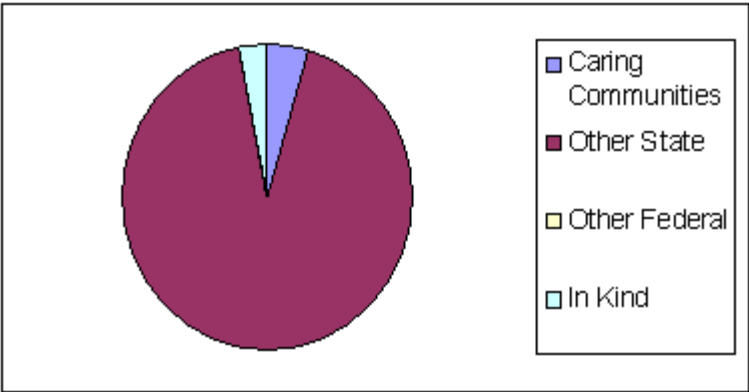
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Jefferson County Community Partnership

Core Result: Parents working Benchmark: Unemployment Rate

February 2002



Caring Communities Investment

Objective

To maintain current unemployment rate at 4.1 or below state rate through 2003

Maintain the average number of families (200) on TANF in Jefferson County through 2003.

Strategies

Workforce Development is a countywide initiative that links low-income adults with volunteers who help them transition to employment through support and resources. This strategy includes mentoring opportunities, as well as support services that provide families with the necessary tools to become independent. In addition, this initiative ensures that services are not duplicated in the county by collaborating with the various employment networks.

Successes

Through the efforts of Workforce Development, DFS and faith-based organizations the following was accomplished: twenty-five families were served, three adults entered full-time employment, two adults entered part-time employment, five adults increased earnings above 200% poverty level, and a car was donated to a needy family.

Putting Families First is a countywide faith-based program dedicated to helping families on public assistance makes the transition to independence. The initiative enlists the efforts of the public and private sectors and encourages them to work together to promote self-sufficiency.

Through Putting Families First, families are matched with a sponsoring church, civic group, or public/private organization. This partnership stimulates and mobilizes private efforts to provide alternative assistance (non-monetary) and mentoring.

Successes

The following was accomplished through Putting Families First: sixteen families were served, forty-one community volunteers mentored participants, two households came off TANF, and two adults entered full-time employment. Turnover in staff and difficulty in 2000-2001 with recruitment

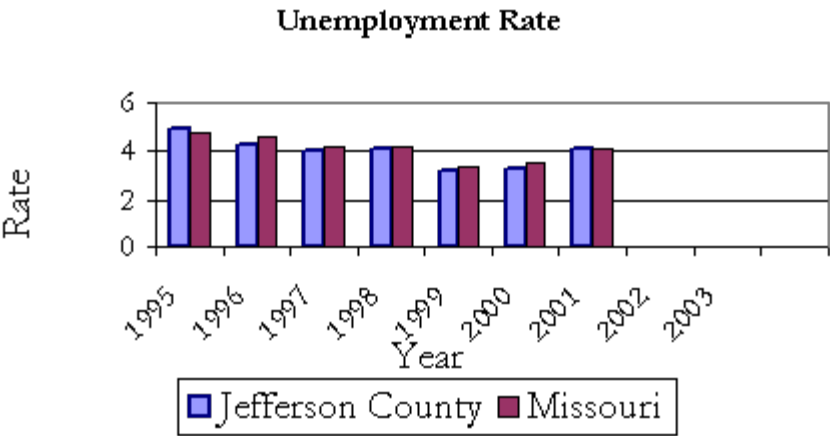


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slowed the progress of this initiative. Since that time, this program has been contracted out to Catholic Services and more families are being impacted.

Results



The unemployment rate for Jefferson County remains slightly lower than the statewide rate. The Jefferson County rate of unemployment has decreased from 4.9% in 1995 to 4.1% in 2001. This nearly parallels Missouri’s rate, which decreased from 5% in 1995 to 4.1% in 2001

Funding/Return on Investment

These strategies have been funded and supported through Missouri Department of Social Services funds, Jefferson County Division of Family Services, local ministerial alliances, community organizations and local food pantries.

Barriers / Road Blocks

From 1995 to 1999 the unemployment rate steadily began to decrease for both Missouri and Jefferson County. At that time the economies of Missouri and Jefferson County were doing good. However, the year 2000 marked the beginning of the recession and after the September 11th tragedy, the unemployment rate has steadily gone up. Jefferson County is largely composed of labor and service workers. If lay offs continue in Missouri, this will significantly impact the economy of Jefferson County. With businesses closing doors, the unemployment rate is likely to be affected. This will also likely impact the objectives in the coming year.

TANF rolls are coming to the end of its five-year term. The cases currently in the system are the hardest cases to be dealt with. As it is now, TANF recipients are being move to Social Security Income (SSI) or have just been accepted into SSI. This move is perpetuating the cycle of welfare, and it is not helping those in the welfare system reach self-sufficiency.

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Jefferson County Community Partnership

An Overview of the Jefferson County:

Jefferson County was born on December 8, 1818, with the formation of Herculaneum, a town of 200 people. With the abundance of natural resources and the introduction of railroad service, the county grew enormously and rapidly through the next century. Jefferson County now covers nearly 660 square miles, is located immediately south of St. Louis County and is part of the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area. Almost two-thirds of the county is classified as rural, but the population of the county has rapidly increased (a 350% increase between 1950 and 1990). As of 2000, the population of Jefferson County was 198,099, which is a 15.6% increase from 1990¹. Jefferson County is contrary to the diverse cultural make-up in the St. Louis Metropolitan area. Ninety-eight percent of the population is Caucasian.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 27.9 % of the population is persons under the age of eighteen². There are eleven school districts in Jefferson County. Twenty-two percent of students in the county were enrolled in free / reduced lunches³. Nine percent of the school-aged children living in the county were classified as living in poverty. Almost 15 % of children live in single parent families. In 1999, approximately 12 % of the children were receiving food stamps and 15.5 % were enrolled in Medicaid.

Jefferson County has displayed many of the economic characteristics one might expect of a county at the edge of a large metropolitan region. Employment opportunities within the county continue to thrive; however, 66 % of Jefferson County residents leave the county to work.

Recent trends indicate the unemployment rate is declining; still it remains higher than the regional average. Agricultural services, mining, and wholesale trade remain historically insignificant segments of the economy with regard to their percentage of the county's employment base. The manufacturing sector, which contributed to the highest percentage of jobs three decades ago, has declined steadily. Retail trade and services have increased to represent nearly half of the county's employment base.

Due to the rural and expansive nature of Jefferson County, several "pockets of poverty" are located throughout the area. This presents a serious barrier to service delivery for low-income or at-risk families in the community. The isolated nature of the county, as well as the lack of a public transportation system, has created obstructions to employment and educational opportunities for families striving to be healthy and successful.

History & Overview of JCCP:

The Jefferson County Community Partnership, formerly known as the Jefferson County Community Assistance Network (JCCAN), was formed in 1994 with the purpose of creating partnerships between civic organizations, churches, businesses and government agencies.

In 1995, with Governor Mel Carnahan's establishment of Caring Communities, JCCAN changed its' name to Jefferson County Community Partnership and adopted the following six core results as its' guiding principles:

- Parents Working
- Children Safe in Their Families and Families Safe in Their Communities
- Young Children Ready to Enter School
- Children and Families that are Healthy
- Children and Youth Succeeding in School
- Youth Ready to Enter the Work Force and Become Productive Citizens



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The mission of the Jefferson County Community Partnership is to improve the quality of life in Jefferson County by studying the strengths and needs of the County, sharing the findings, and facilitating the development of solutions.

The Jefferson County Community Partnership Board of Directors represents many sectors of the community. The Board is comprised of local representatives of the state agencies directly involved with Caring Communities, as well as representatives from the following sectors of Jefferson County: churches, schools, charitable organizations, civic groups, business, state & county elected officials, residents and service recipients. Jefferson County Community Partnership is funded in part through Caring Communities. These flexible dollars leverage additional funding through grants, other state funds and local resources. In addition, many resources in the form of materials, access to facilities and volunteer hours are contributed as a result of Caring Communities' presence.

In 1998 Caring Communities sites were established in De Soto. Since that time, additional sites have been and are currently under development in the rest of Jefferson County. To date, the established site teams along with the planning team consisting of JCCP Board and staff have developed plans with a priority of addressing the core results of Children Ready to Enter School, Children Succeeding in School and Parents Working. These results were chosen via results-based planning sessions at the local and county level and were selected as a result of local input, data indicating the need at the local level and the willingness of community partners to work to improve these results.

The following report highlights programs of JCCP that have impacted Children Ready to Enter School, Children Succeeding in School, and Parents Working. As illustrated in the report, kindergarten readiness scores have improved greatly at the Vineland Site in De Soto. The strides made in school preparedness have resulted from the collaboration of many community partners. Despite the fact that Reading MAP test scores have not improved in both 3rd and 7th grade students, improvements in school attendance, grades and parent involvement have occurred in De Soto. As a result of mentoring through the faith-based initiative and connections to resources via Workforce Development, several low-income families have moved to self-sufficiency. The Caring Communities Initiative has brought many community partners together for the first time. The small amount of Caring Communities flexible funds/resources and an opportunity through the Danforth Foundation (available as a result of Caring Communities status) and Americorps*Vista have leveraged local funds and just as importantly, community resources in the form of materials and volunteer hours to address the issue of school readiness, school success and employment for low-income families.

We wish to thank our many community partners for their continued support: De Soto School District, Jefferson County Catholic Community Services, Jefferson College, Division of Family Services, Jefferson County Health Department, Parents As Teachers, Jefferson County Division of Workforce Development, Office of Job Training, Jefferson Memorial Hospital, the Jefferson County Business Community, local churches, local food pantries, the Danforth Foundation, and Jefferson County childcare providers. Without their commitment to improving outcomes for Jefferson County, progress would not be possible.

1 Data Source: Jefferson County Department of Land Use, Development, and Code Enforcement; U.S. Census Bureau
2 US Census Bureau, <http://www.census.gov>
3 Casey (Annie E.) Foundation, Kids Count, 2000.

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Knox & Schuyler Counties Northeast Missouri Caring Communities

Core Result: Youth ready to enter work force
Benchmark: GED by age 25
Students moving on to post-secondary education, the military, or the workforce.

February 2002



Objective

To increase GED pass rate for all persons enrolled at the Knox/Schuyler site from 0% in 1999 to 50% in 2001.

To achieve at least a 75% success rate for the GED diploma students who enter post-secondary education, the military or the workforce.

Target: High school dropouts, enrollment of 40 students annually from Knox, Schuyler and neighboring counties.

History

Knox/Schuyler Counties together over the past 5 years have averaged 11 high school dropouts each year.

Clark, Lewis, Putnam & Scotland counties, over the same time frame, adds another 36 dropouts each year.

In the past, the goal was to enroll 12 students annually. Past success rate was on average one student passing the GED each year.

Strategies



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The overarching approach was to assure that our process was student centered, met their needs, and had results.

- Customer driven: GED preparation study sessions offered in each county three times weekly (morning, afternoon, and evening) at a total of five different locations.
- Awareness and promotion: Flyers were widely posted and distributed. Ads were placed in local newspapers. High school principals and guidance counselors were asked to refer students.
- Student centered: Interested students were interviewed and given diagnostic tests. Once enrolled, they were full partners in the preparation of individualized self-study plans, addressing the specific needs of each student. Students completed assignments at home and attended study sessions to get feedback and receive personal instruction. Their work was self-paced with emphasis only in weak academic areas. Students worked in an atmosphere of total support and encouragement. Family, friends, and other community members were asked to help build confidence and positive attitudes toward the GED test. All study materials were provided. If needed, transportation to the GED test center was arranged. Upon successful completion of the GED test, students were offered information about further education and training.

Results -- Better then Expected

Community Results:

- Of those enrolled, 77% attempted the GED test and 72% passed the GED, or 94% who took the test received their GED.
- 100% who passed the GED entered post-secondary, education, military, or workforce.

State of Missouri comparison (preliminary data):

- Of all students enrolled at a GED site, 12% attempted the GED test and 10% passed, or 78.9% who took the test received their GED.
- Of those with academic skills of least the 9th grade level, 27% attempted the GED, 25% passed the GED, or 91.8% who took the test received their GED.

2001 Results

Knox/Schuyler Counties	Under 25	25 and Older
% Passed GED	83%	56%
Enrolled	24	18
Passed	20	10
Dropped	4	6
Continue GED Studies	0	2
% Dropped	17%	33%
Entered post-secondary	3	3
Entered workforce	15	10
% Passed GED in post-secondary	15%	30%
% Passed GED in workforce	75%	100%

Other Counties	Under 25	25 and Older
% Passed GED	69%	83%
Enrolled	13	6
Passed	9	5

Dropped	3	1
Adult Literacy Student	1	
% Dropped	23%	17%
Entered post-secondary	3	0
Entered workforce	5	6
% Passed GED in post-secondary	33%	0
% Passed GED in workforce	56%	100%

Funding/Return on Investment

This redesigned GED program began in September 2000 with a DESE Grant. Other funds contributing to this program to date include: Caring Communities Dollars, in-kind of community donations and participant fees.

Prorated expenses of all funds from 9/2000-1/2002 reflects the following:

- Participant cost of \$734.39 (all enrolled)
- Participant cost of only those who passed the GED is \$1,011.83

Prorated expenses of state funds (grant or Caring Communities dollars) from 9/2000-1/2002:

- Per participant cost \$645.79
 - Participant cost of only those who passed GED is \$889.75
- Noteworthy
- Partners in the two counties played a key role in the success of the program. They provided the facilities for study sessions, referred students, publicized the program and gave continuous encouragement. These include the principals and guidance counselors at the Knox R-1 and Schuyler R-1 High Schools, the staff at the Farm Bureau Insurance Office in Edina, the administrator at Downing City Hall, and the staff at the Schuyler County Library.
 - As the number of successful students grew, other organizations and agencies in northeast Missouri referred individuals to the program. These include Division of Family Services, Northeast Missouri Community Action Agency, Department of Corrections, Parents' Fair Share, Crosspointe Residential Care Facility, and the Testing Center at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa.
 - Although study sessions were held in Knox and Schuyler Counties, individuals from Adair, Clark, Lewis, Putnam, and Scotland Counties joined the program.

Barriers / Road Blocks

The cumbersome and time-consuming GED test application process in Missouri, along with limited availability of testing (monthly) at the closest test center (Truman State University in Kirksville), led all students in the program to take the GED test at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa. Recommend consideration of a decentralized GED testing structure for Missouri, similar to those found in adjoining states, with community colleges accepting applications, administering tests more frequently, and issuing results.

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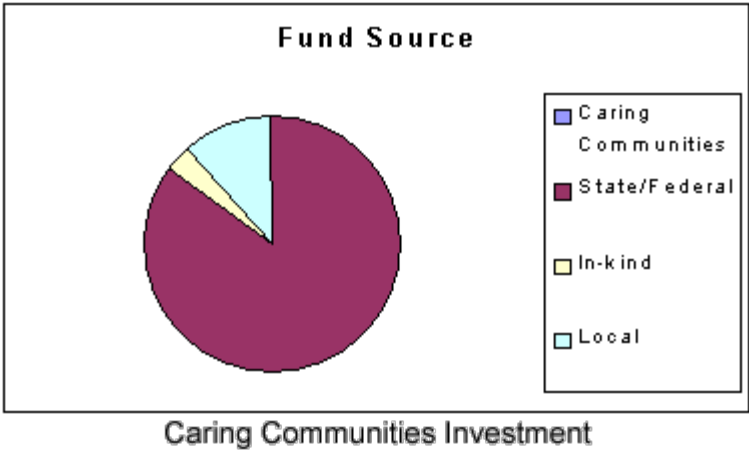
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Knox & Schuyler Counties Northeast Missouri Caring Communities

Core Result: Young children ready to enter school
Benchmark: Ready to Enter School by School Assessment

February 2002



Objective

To increase readiness of school assessment scores for children in Knox and Schuyler Counties from “average” (range of 4.0-6.9) actual average score of 6.74 in 2000 to “high” (range of 7.0 to 9.0) by 2003.

Target

Childcare providers in Knox and Schuyler Counties (licensed & non-licensed)

Strategies

Children that have the opportunity to experience a variety of activities and environments will show an increase in scores of Kindergarten Readiness screenings. When a child has different kinds of experiences, and these experiences are repeated over and over again, the connections in the brain become stronger. These connections shape the way a child thinks, feels, behaves, and learns. It is essential to support child care providers, parents, and families as they establish positive environments for lifelong learners for our future generations.

- Support for Child Care Providers, using Project REACH curriculum. We utilize the format of home visits, on site trainings; grant opportunities, and outside training.
- Circulation of 14 different Kindergarten Readiness Activity Boxes. Each focuses on different skills needed by children entering Kindergarten. These boxes come to the family daycare home, Center or Preschool approximately every two weeks throughout the year and are available to parents.
- Collaboration with agencies to provide Child Care Training for providers that will include



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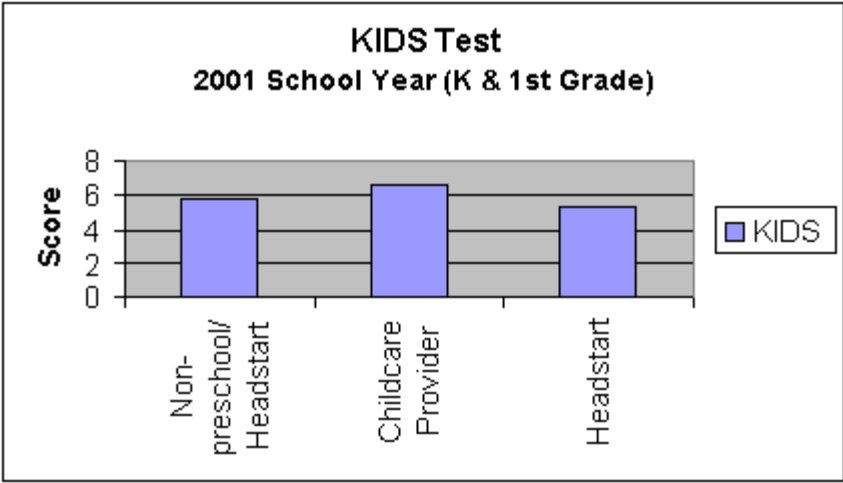
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CDA Training.

- Support for the Stay At Home Parent in the form of Baby Bright. The Early Childhood Coalitions offer additional visits by Health Dept., PAT, and Early Head Start visitors. Infant activity bags are loaned to the family until the next visit.
- Headstart & Early Headstart (Note: Headstart's curriculum provides more emphasis on Kindergarten readiness through their creative curriculum by using an outcomes tracking system)

Results

Preliminary data of KIDS test scores indicates that those children in homes and centers that have been a part of our community strategies score the highest, followed by the children who did not have any contact with preschool programs scoring in the next highest range. Headstart participants entering first grade scored the lowest on the KIDS test. However, it should be noted that this year's entering Kindergarten class of Headstart participants scored higher than non-program participants and we expect that trend to continue.



Funding/Return on Investment

These strategies provide direct services to 13 programs with 21 providers that serve 208 children in Knox and Schuyler Counties. Currently, through Baby Bright 47 infants are served, with an additional 50 anticipated. The cost per child is approximately \$165.90.

Noteworthy

All strategies have been rewarding as we work to support childcare providers. The key to helping professionals achieve higher expectations in their program is encouragement. All childcare providers are at risk of isolation and feeling that they do not make a difference. It has been important for all childcare professionals to understand how critical their work is.

When they see themselves as professionals their job performance increases.

Barriers / Road Blocks

- Childcare providers in this northeast region have been eliminated from attendance at state and regional training programs. The current training and state of the art programs offered by state training dollars are located 60 to 90 miles away from our providers, in the middle of the week, near the end of the day and before children leave care.
- Changes in fire and safety codes have created huge expense for some homes and cause new programs from wanting to license in their homes.
- Providers become discouraged a in trying to determine what is expected of them as licensing rules change and licensing representatives have been limited in their travel
- Compensation for childcare providers is limited.

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Knox Schuyler Counties Caring Communities Partnership

February 12, 2002

The Northeast Missouri Caring Communities Partnership began as the rural pilot project in October 1989 in Knox County and Schuyler County in Northeast Missouri. Currently our community partnership is structured with each county viewed as one site. Each site has an office located in the school district building. While we are housed in the school our partnership is an active participant with the community from serving on advisory councils to volunteering at local community events. We currently are structured with a site council called the Family Learning Center in each county. The Family Learning Centers' meet monthly.

Our Governing Board is composed of six members from each county, with one position belonging to the vice president of each Family Learning Center, and one position belonging to a school board member from each county. Our board membership has agency representation (two members), community representation (eight members which includes the school board, and Family Learning Center representation) and two vacancies (one per county).

The mission of Northeast Missouri Caring Communities is: To promote emotional and physical wellness, and the enhancement of moral values of community; to foster a sense of community, and to coordinate Federal, State and Local resources to meet individual/community needs.

Our vision is: Northeast Missouri Caring Communities is a community collaboration based on the principles of ownership and community wide focus. We serve as a catalyst to promote value-enhanced services through public awareness and community wide accessibility. A sense of belonging is fostered through the development of a nurturing environment that allows people to help themselves and others grow. In an effort to meet the needs of the community on a broader scale, encompassing a larger population, the Knox and Schuyler County Family Learning Centers look for ways to better serve families. The centers provide a continuum of learning for families from newborns through grandparents. The Family Learning Center concept guides us as we plan for the future. Northeast Missouri Caring Communities is a constantly evolving, community wide program.

Our partnership utilizes information gathered from a variety of sources to determine areas of high need. Community surveys are one source, as well as interagency, advisory groups, our site councils, and individuals. Data is studied to help us understand trends. Unfortunately the lack of access to services and providers in each county has created a void in many areas. As a result over the years we have strived to impact all core results. Historic priority areas are education (including ready to enter, succeeding in school and adult education), and we have spent effort in building good relationships to collaborate and facilitate change. One priority area for the next few years is to develop a community vision, and re-do asset mapping and needs assessment for each county. We also we expect to work on economic development and issues affecting teens, in addition to education.

We look at every opportunity for available funding. Currently, the community partnership funds account for 48% of the fund sources (in-kind 17%, participant fees and local investment 5% each, and other state, federal funds 25%). Every effort is made to capture all local investment, in-kind, participant fees, and other state and federal funds. There is a challenge to find funds to



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meet the goals of our communities. Grant writing has been somewhat successful. The largest barrier is our small size and lack of sustainability. Unfortunately the future of sustainable funding is not on the horizon for our small rural farming communities.

The success of any effort is hinged on community support and volunteers. During the past 12 years we have collaborated and worked with a broad spectrum of agencies and individuals, including the faith community, the local schools, local and regional agencies (county health departments, family services, division of aging and nutrition site for senior citizens, community action, University Extension), local businesses, child care providers, the elected county and city officials, and the volunteers.

Our partnership is proud of our ability to leverage other resources and we are pleased to offer many activities to more than “just” residents of Knox and Schuyler Counties.

- Faith Community Collaboration began in 1995 to provide pastors with a better understanding, relationship and skills in regards to mental health and counseling. Workshops continue to provide education regarding current community issues and services. Pastors participate from Schuyler, Adair, Scotland, Putnam, Knox, and Lewis Counties, as well as across all denominations.
- Kindergarten Readiness Activity Boxes focus on the different skills needed by children entering Kindergarten. The 14 play focused activity boxes are available to families, daycares, childcare centers, preschools, and head start programs in Knox and Schuyler Counties.
- Baby Bright provides access to additional Parents-As-Teachers, and health department services during the first year of a child’s life. During monthly visits activity bags are loaned to families. An added benefit is the opportunity of collaboration among early childcare providers and promotion of a referral system.
- In 1996 the Regional Interagency Community Collaboration (formed by our partnership) identified a need for larger employers in northeast Missouri to make parenting resources available to employees. Today 32 Family Resource Libraries exist in Schuyler, Knox, Adair, and Scotland Counties.

Lastly, is a table with demographic information.

	Knox County	Schuyler County	State of Missouri
	Rural Farming Community	Rural Farming Community	
Land Area	506 square miles	308 square miles 2nd smallest county	
Population 2000 Census	4361	4170	
Population over 65	21.2%	19.8%	13.5%
Population under 18	24.9%	24.6%	25.5%
2001 Kids County Composite Rank	51	66	
Business Establishment, Private non-farm establishments (1999)	112 (119 in 1997)	85 (93 in 1997)	
Student Enrollment (Fall 2001)	631	742	
Children Living in Poverty (1997)	26.7%	22.2%	17.7%
Children enrolled in MC+/Medicaid (2000)	32.2%	35.2%	29.6%
Average Annual Wage/Salary (1999)	\$18,172	\$16,029	\$29,282

We appreciate the opportunity to share information with you regarding our community partnership.

Sincerely,

Melissa Emel
Executive Director

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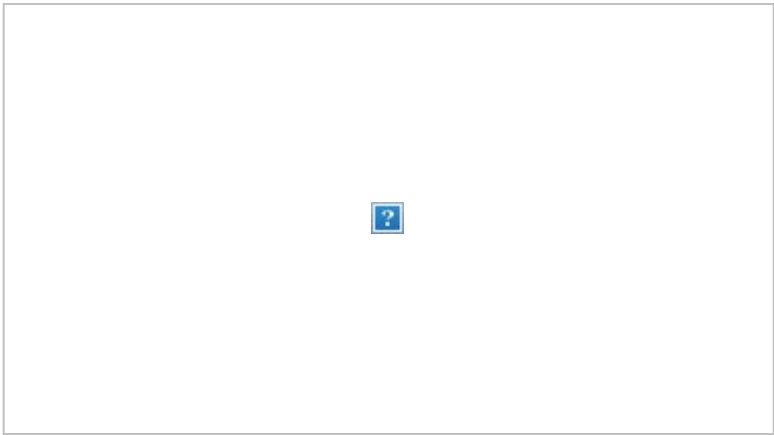
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Marion County Families and Communities Together

Core Result: Children succeeding in school
Benchmark: Student achievement on MAP test

February 2002



Objective

Decrease the number of discipline referrals for Palmyra Middle School students from 570 in 2001 to 484 by 2005.

Strategies

Gatekeepers

A collaborative effort between FACT, the schools and Hannibal-LaGrange College was designed to connect college students with at-risk children in the fifth grade.

The project, called Gatekeepers, began in 1996, and included fifth grade students in three schools, Eugene Field and Pettibone Elementary Schools in Hannibal, and Palmyra Middle School in Palmyra. The students involved not only receive tutoring but someone who serves as young adult mentors who set examples for the children.

Academic performance is expected to improve with a decrease in discipline referrals.



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This year the program has since expanded so that it includes fifth-graders in all five of Hannibal's elementary schools, as well as Palmyra's Middle School. A total of 22 Gatekeepers worked with 24 students last year. This year there are 28 Gatekeepers working with about 30 students this year.

Challenges

One of the biggest challenges has been to develop strong mentoring relationship between college student and child, and to then use that relationship to help the child succeed. It's been hard for partners to grasp the value of such a relationship to a child, and how it can in turn impact the disciplinary and social issues that caused the child to be referred to the program.

Observations/Actions

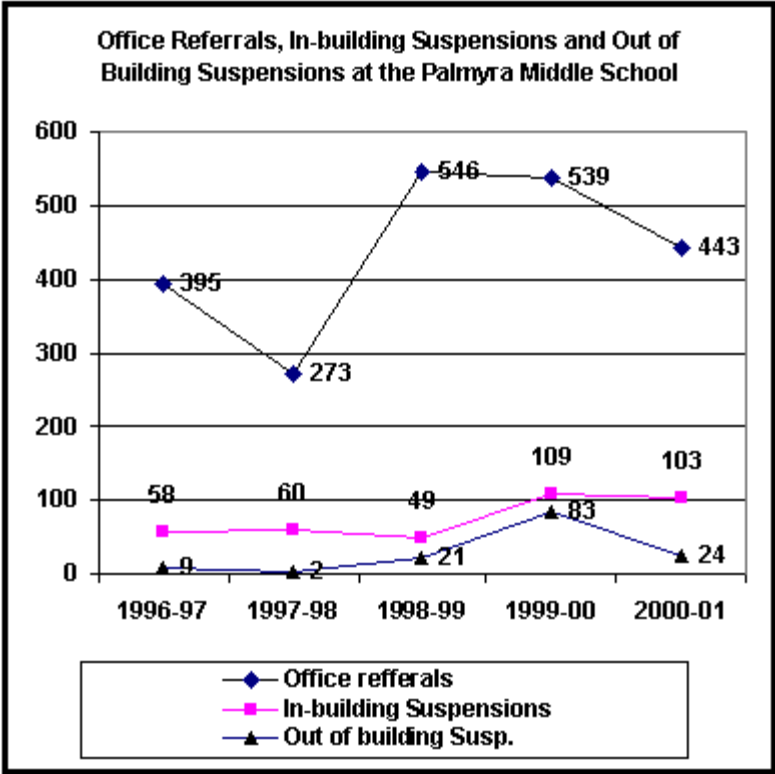
Training and focus on building that relationship has improved the GateKeepers program tremendously this year. Feedback from the college students and schools alike has been more positive.

Results

According to data supplied by the two Hannibal elementary schools originally involved in Gatekeepers, in the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 school years the students involved in Gatekeepers showed a 25 percent decrease in discipline referrals in 2000-01 compared to 1999-2000; and a decrease of 19 percent in the number of days absent for the same period.

Palmyra, likewise has demonstrated a decline in discipline problems. This is noted on the graphic at the top right of the next column.

Still, one of the challenges to GateKeepers has been in providing more accurate, measurable results. That will be addressed in the coming year as part of FACT's plan for this strategy.



Funding/Return on Investment

In 2000-01, the entire program was funded with a \$5,000 grant from the Pillsbury Foundation. Part of that, \$1,581.36 was carried over for use this year. In addition to that, \$1,500 of Caring Communities funds has been budgeted for the program. In kind contributions include volunteer hours valued at \$8,064, (22 Gatekeepers @ \$6 an hour), \$6,000 for Hannibal-LaGrange faculty coordinator and \$500 for University of Missouri Extension training, for a total of \$12,836 of community investment. Future funding has yet to be determined for this strategy for the 2002-03 school year.

Noteworthy

This year more of a focus has been placed on developing that relationship, with guidance coming from the college’s faculty advisor. Such a focus has increased the value of GateKeepers for both the college mentors and their elementary students.

Barriers / Road Blocks

In seeking to collect and evaluate data, the question arose as to whether the identified performance measures corresponded to the factors or criteria used to refer students to GateKeepers. Added to that is the fact that this is the first year GateKeepers has moved beyond the three original schools to encompass all of Hannibal's elementary schools (five in all) as well as Palmyra Elementary School. This is an area FACT will address, clarify and improve this year.

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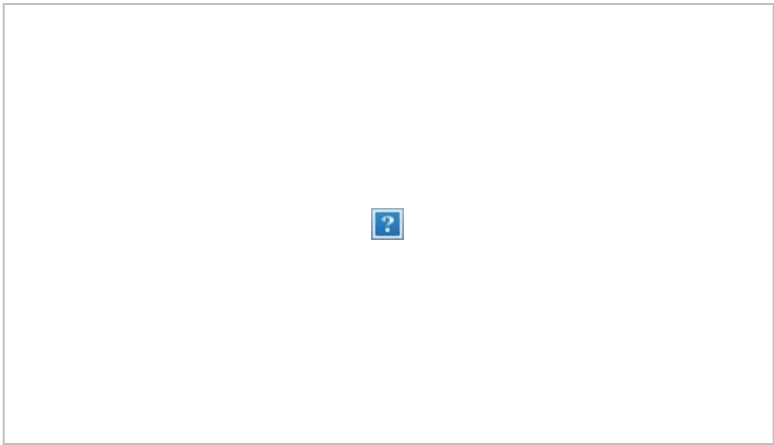
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Marion County Families and Communities Together

Core Result: Children succeeding in school
Benchmark: Student achievement on MAP test

February 2002



Objective

Increase attendance in Hannibal schools from 95 percent in 2001 to 98 percent by 2005.

Decrease discipline referrals in the Palmyra Middle School from a total of 570 in 2001 to 484 by 2005.

Strategies

Ambassadors

Four Ambassadors serve as advocates for students referred to the program, acting as liaisons between the student and the schools, the student and their family and the families and the schools.

An Ambassador works to connect a students and/or their family to needed services, he or she also works with key figures in the child's life to address whatever problem caused the referral to the program. An Ambassador also spends a lot of time teaching parenting and social skills.



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c/o CEU
3418 Knipp Drive
Jefferson City, MO
65201
(573) 526-3581
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Academic performance is expected to improve with increased attendance and fewer discipline referrals.

The Ambassadors strategy is in its third year It's a program that is funded jointly by DFS, Hannibal Public Schools, Palmyra Public Schools and FACT of Marion County.

An advisory group made up of representatives from FACT of Marion County, the local Division of Family Services director, Hannibal School assistant superintendent and the Palmyra Middle School principal, meets monthly to address systems reform, and assessment of the effort.

Observations/Actions

Because of the severity and complexity of the referrals to Ambassadors the program has expanded from a 90-day intervention to something that lasts four to six months.

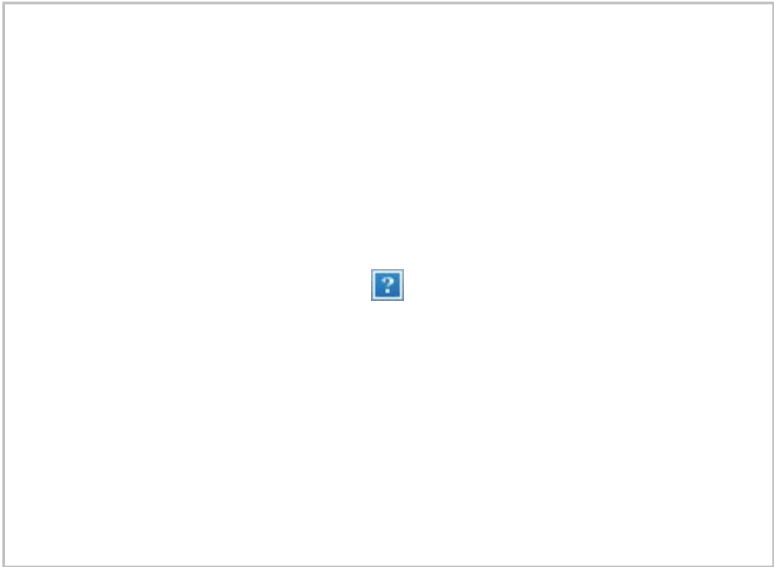
Challenges

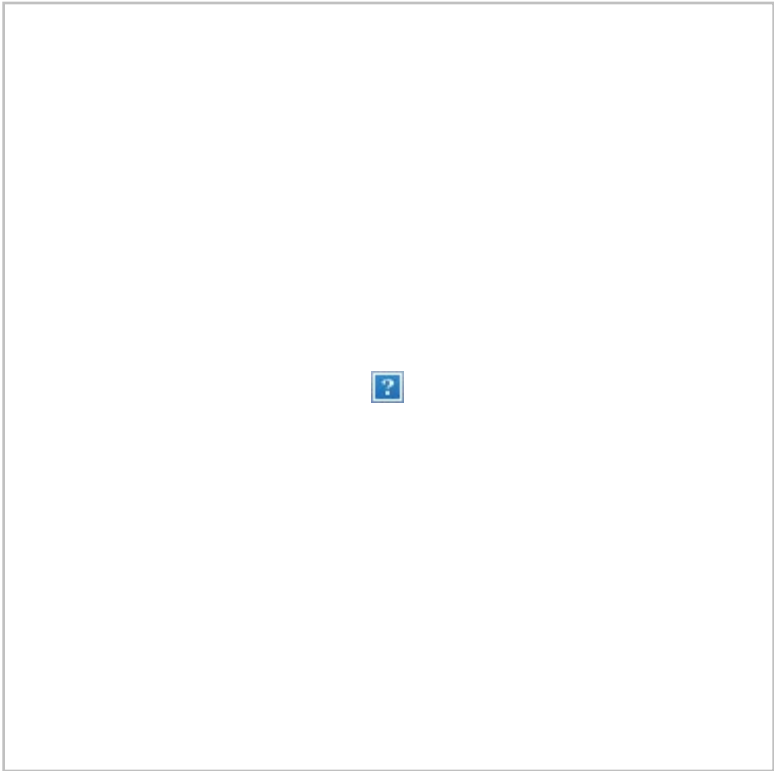
A key challenge has been for all partners to look at the Ambassadors project as a systems change as opposed to service delivery, and the idea that Ambassadors are there to "fix everything. Another challenge has been for the partners to learn to work as a team as opposed to independently taking steps to address the problems of these at risk children.

Results

As noted, one of the issues that led to an Ambassador referral involved attendance, namely if a child had five or more unexcused absences from school. Over the last year, an Ambassador provided through the Juvenile Office and the schools, working with the Division of Family Service and Prosecuting Attorney, was able to improve the attendance of 123 of 128 students. Of the other five, two families moved away and the parents of three others were prosecuted.

In addition to overall improved attendance figures, there has been an improvement in discipline-related measures as well. For instance, between the 1999-2000 school year and the 2000-01 school year, office referrals for the Palmyra Middle School dropped by 16 percent. In building suspensions saw a small decrease and out of building suspensions dropped by 59, or 71 percent.





Funding/Return on Investment

Financing for Fiscal Year 2002 for the Ambassador program will be about \$144,789. All but \$50,000 comes from sources other than Caring Communities Flexible Funding, including \$40,000 from the Hannibal and Palmyra School Districts as local investment dollars, and more than \$36,000 from state and federal funds through school-based social worker funds.

While the figures are not yet available, an increase in attendance should mean an increase in funds for both school districts.

Barriers / Road Blocks

FACT of Marion County will, over the course of the next few months, evaluate and tweak its system of data gathering and comparison. While not a complete barrier, there is a concern that the current system may not measure results as fully as FACT of Marion County or the Trust would like.

Noteworthy

The Ambassadors program has proven to be a change agent on many levels. Through the actions of these liaisons, the school has approached at-risk children and the families in a different manner. Likewise, the families and children perceive the school as a interested partner in assisting them.

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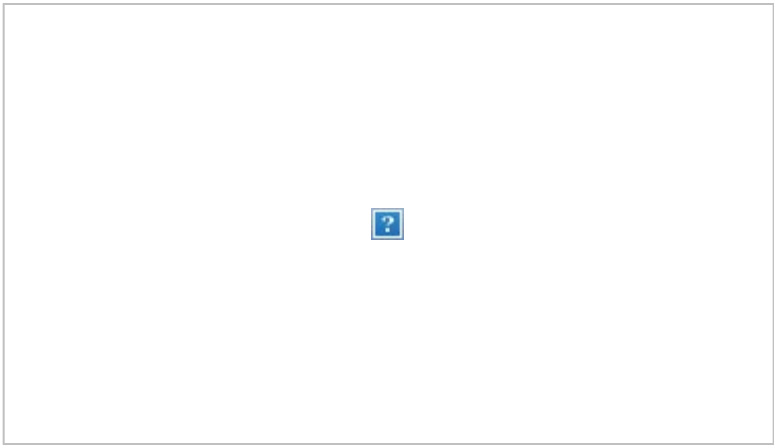
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Marion County Families and Communities Together

Core Result: Children succeeding in school
Benchmark: Student achievement on MAP test

February 2002



Objective

Decrease the number of days missed by students at Eugene Field Elementary School from 91 in 2001 to 88 by 2005. Thus increasing the attendance rate 3 percent, from 94.7 percent to 97.7 percent.

Strategies

Health Educator

A Health Educator has assumed responsibility of working with children and their families if a child loses more than two days of school because of repeated or health issues, including such things as head lice infestations or medication problems.

Academic performance is expected to improve with an increase in school attendance.

As part of the strategy, the Health Educator works with each family addressing the underlying reasons behind the ongoing illness. For example, the Health Educator teaches how and why a lice infestation occurs, and then demonstrates preventive measures to stop a reinfestation.



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c/o CEU
3418 Knipp Drive
Jefferson City, MO
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(573) 526-3581
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It was because of repeated head lice infestations, that the Health Educator program was implemented in the 1999-2000 school year. It started in just one Hannibal school, Eugene Field Elementary. The Health Educator also deals with other referred health issues including such things as arranging for eyeglasses or dental services, providing instruction on food and nutrition and hygiene, and assisting with diabetes management.

Observations/Actions

The success of the Health Educator in the one school saw the program expand in September 2001 to include all of Hannibal's schools. The focus changed to encompass any health issue that caused multiple absences from school. Another change this year was partnering the Health Educator with the Ambassadors program, another FACS strategy that is trying to address the benchmark of school performance.

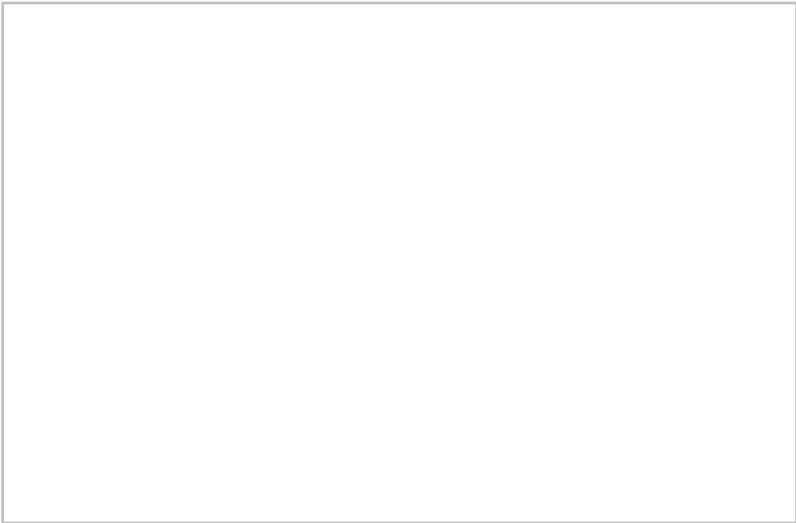
Challenges

Implementing the strategy of a Health Educator beyond the elementary school level. Referrals have been limited at the middle school and high school levels.

Results

From the peak of 734 days lost at Eugene Field Elementary School due to head lice in the 1998-99 school year, a decrease of 378 days, or 51 percent, occurred in the 1999-2000 school year – the first year of the program. An even greater decrease in days lost occurred the following year. In 1999-2000, there were 356 days lost due to head lice infestation; in the 2000-01 the number of days lost was 91. This showed a decrease of 75 percent. From the peak of 734 days lost in the 1998-99 school an 88 percent decrease in absences occurred due to head lice because of the intervention of the health educator.





Funding/Return on Investment

The salary and benefits for the Health Educator, totaling \$29,000, come from Caring Communities flexible funding. An additional \$971 of Caring Communities flexible funds are also used for supplies. Marion County Health Department contributes \$7,470.56 toward the Health Educator’s salary and benefits, and that also includes \$1,900 for in-kind services of office, telephone, supplies and supervision.

The Return

An added benefit of the strategy, or a return on the investment, is the money gained by the Hannibal School District. The increase in attendance meant the school district received an additional \$4,301.64 in 1999-2001, and \$4,618.95 2000-01, in funding based on attendance.

Noteworthy

The problem with chronic head lice among children changed from being seen as just a family issue or a school issue or a medical issue to being a community issue. Through close work with families and school personnel, including school nurses, the Health Educator was able to change attitudes and mindset concerning the problem of head lice, which led to such a dramatic decrease in incidents as well as a strong cooperative relationship between the Health Educator and most in the school and medical community. Similar changes are hoped for concerning other chronic health issues.

Barriers / Road Blocks

One of the key, initial obstacles involved was developing working relationships and a sense of trust with the children, families and the schools and others. It was only after building trust between the Health Educator and the families, the school and medical community that the Health Educator was able to make strides in helping children, their families and the schools.

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Marion County Families and Communities Together

February 14, 2002

Dear Mr. O'Reilly and Ms. Martin:

Families and Communities Together (FACT) of Marion County hopes you find the enclosed reports in good order. The three February reports are based on the three remaining strategies that FACT is continuing as part of our plan for the next year: Health Educator, Ambassadors and GateKeepers.

FACT of Marion County joined Caring Communities as a full partner in 1996. The Marion County Partnership is governed by a 15-member board, which includes a six-member executive committee. The board is made up of a mix of people from the community at large and various service providers, with the majority of members being non-service providers. An Advisory Council made up of interested individuals from local agencies and groups also participates with FACT.

Marion County is located in the northeast corner of the state of Missouri. It is bordered to the east by the state of Illinois. The total population of the county is approximately 27,682 residents. The majority of residents live in Hannibal (pop. 17,735). Other towns include Palmyra (pop. 3,371), which serves as the county seat, a corner of Monroe City (pop. 420), and the unincorporated village of Philadelphia.

FACT is a community effort to develop or build upon existing collaborative efforts, to improve local systems and to maximize the use of resources to better to meet the needs of children and families. Ultimately, the goal is systems-level change, not merely more or different services.

FACT originally began implementing strategies at three designated sites: Eugene Field Elementary School in Hannibal, the Hannibal Middle School and the Palmyra School District. With input from those sites, FACT began developing strategies around all six Core Results during the first two years as a partnership. In its most recent plan update, FACT scaled back its strategies to focus on three that center around the Core Result of Children Succeeding in School. They are the Health Educator, Gatekeepers and Ambassadors. These strategies address concerns about absenteeism or discipline/behavior problems through different strategies. FACT will be reevaluating its plan further in the coming weeks to improve its results-based outcomes and to sharpen the focus of the strategies.

FACT's budget for 2002 totals \$551,545. Of that local investment totals \$29,276, in-kind donations total \$140,839, participant fees total \$25 and other, state and federal funding totals \$127,993. Caring Communities Flexible Funding totals \$253,412. FACT has leveraged almost



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\$1.18 for every \$1 it receives from Caring Communities. The partnership hopes to increase local support thus improving the leverage ratio.

FACT of Marion County would not have been able to accomplish what it has without the assistance of its collaborative partners, who include representatives of state agencies, community residents, and other area agencies and groups such as the University Extension Office, the Juvenile Office of the 10th Judicial Circuit, Hannibal-LaGrange College, and grantors, such as The Pillsbury Foundation and the Tracy Family Foundation.

FACT of Marion County has successfully changed "business as usual" through several of its strategies. Some examples are:

- The Ambassadors program. Schools have changed the manner in which they address absenteeism and discipline referrals by working closely with the parents to address the underlying issues causing the school-related problems.
- The Dental Clinic changed the way dental services were offered. The clinic began out of a concern for an underserved group of people and is now in its second year. It's funded by Medicaid dollars, administered by the Marion County Health Department and serviced by two area dentists, Dr. Tom Lemons and Dr. E.W. Harder, who volunteer their time.
- The Health Educator changed the way schools addressed absenteeism because of medical issues. The idea for a Health Educator originated because of days lost due to head lice problems in the school. The Health Educator works one-on-one with referred families to address underlying issues that caused the health-related absenteeism.

A key challenge faced by FACT has been in the area of community and neighborhood development. It has proven a challenge to engage the community and gain broad base community involvement in FACT's work. This may be in part because of a lack of sustained groundwork to pull together diverse people from the community.

Also results-based and accountability issues have proven a difficult concept for some to grasp, and thus to apply to strategies. Added to that, it has been difficult to get beyond seeing FACT as a grant-maker or funding source. FACT's initial plan was not results-based, but there had been no indication that such was required.

Overriding it all is the fact that these types of changes are not easy to understand or undertake without some familiarity of the state system and local school systems and how they work. There are a limited number of people in a small community with this knowledge, and there are an even smaller number of people in that group interested in applying their knowledge and to seek effect collaborative and systems change.

Sincerely,

Earl Mangrum, Coordinator, FACT of Marion County
Ann Pierceall, Assistant Coordinator, FACT of Marion County

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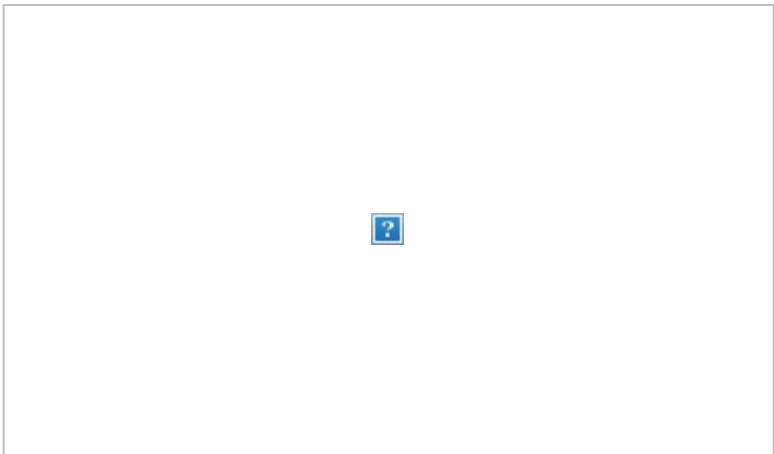
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Mississippi County Mississippi County Caring Communities

Core Result: Youth Ready to Enter Productive Adulthood
Benchmark: Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)

February 2002



Objective

To decrease the teen pregnancy rate in Mississippi County from 131.4 occurrences per 1,000 in 1999, to 91 occurrences per 1,000 by 2004.

Strategies

Successes

The partnership has implemented several strategies to help reduce the teen pregnancy rate in Mississippi County. These strategies are offered comprehensively and target time periods when youth are more vulnerable due to lack of supervision. The CAAAP (Community Alliance Against Adolescent Pregnancy) Coalition partners with the community to help increase awareness surrounding teen pregnancy and to offer Sexual Awareness Training in the local school systems. Parent forums were implemented so parents would have the opportunity to observe what the youth are learning. This enables parents to actively participate in the children's training.

Teen groups have also been implemented for area youth. This gives them the opportunity to address the problems and shortcomings faced by today's teen. The panel discussion method allows the groups to be student driven.

The partnership has worked diligently for the last 6 months to educate community partners, parents and the ministerial alliance about the teen pregnancy rate in the county. The outreach has built a coalition of more than 14 partners and the approval of the local ministerial alliance boards, one school system and the community. The Community Site Coordinators developed the sexual awareness training for the schools that have been in operation for this fiscal year.

Challenges

The partnership is the liaison between the community coalition and the school system. It is time



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c/o CEU
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consuming to make sure that everything is completely in tact for the Sexual Awareness Training. To qualify as a speaker/presenter, CAAAP must approve all speakers and also the schools have their own regulations that must be met. Problems may also occur if parents don't approve of the training components.

Observations/Actions

(unintended positive/negative consequences; course corrections)
While listening to the youth on the panel discussion board the partnership learned that several are under peer pressure and constantly subjected to alcohol and drugs. The partnership plans to incorporate and generate guest speakers and information about substance abuse into the teen groups.

Results

Progress

The partnership has been working on the teen pregnancy rate in Mississippi County for the last two years. In August of 2002 the partnership will have completed one year of teen pregnancy intervention methods with Sexual Awareness Training and the Teen Support Groups.



Program Performance Measures

The development of the CAAAP Coalition has brought 14 entities to the table partnering to help lower teen pregnancy. Through this coalition 7th and 8th grade girls addressing teen pregnancy issues have completed 83 Sexual Awareness Training surveys that help guide the next training. Results from surveys show that 10 understood Abstinence while the other 73 didn't. All sexually active girls are from homes comprised of mother/step father, grandparents or single parent homes. A total of 28 adults and youth have participated in the Parent Forums addressing Teen Pregnancy in less than four months.

Funding/Return on Investment

The funding for the Teen Pregnancy Interventions and the CAAAP Coalition has been supported locally. There is no state or federal dollars that generate this program.

Leveraging \$\$ and resources

The program strategies are conducted by a collaborative effort from local agencies, churches, ministerial alliances, organizations, and the local school systems.

Cost Savings

The teen pregnancy interventions strategies save the state dollars. A teen mother generates a dollar amount from the state for the infant and the mother. These strategies dealing with teen pregnancy will help to lower that dollar amount.

Noteworthy

The partnership and the CAAAP Coalition met with all local community organizations and agencies. The ministerial alliance, a key collaborator of the training, gave their support to allow the Sexual Awareness Training in the schools and also to participate as a speaker and presenter to the students and parents.

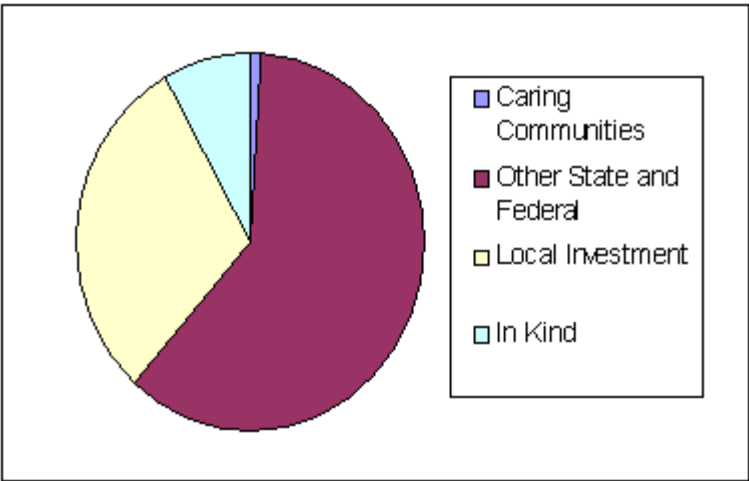
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Mississippi County Caring Communities Partnership

Core Result: Children Succeeding In School Benchmark: Juvenile Crime Rate

February 2002



Caring Communities Investment

Objective

To decrease the juvenile crime rate in Mississippi County from 184 per 1,000 occurrences in 1998 to 148 per 1,000 (20%) by 2004.

Strategies

The partnership in Mississippi County has implemented several different strategies to help lower the juvenile delinquency and habitual delinquency problems in the county.

Fatal Vision goggles have been used in school systems and youth programs to address the problems associated with substance abuse.

The East Prairie School Resource Officer -conducts classes on a daily basis for the entire school system.

Children and P.O.W.E.R. (Children and Police Officers Working to Enhance Relationships) conducts classes that are ongoing Violence Prevention/Character Education Program classes. The local police department will provide a patrol officer to address the students.

Teen Link a support group for youth ages 7th –12th grade has mentoring meetings that address substance abuse, teen pregnancy and violent behavior. The Teen Link is youth driven.

Take A Stand Curriculum is conducted in classes K – 6th dealing with bullying and violent behaviors. Reach is a teaching tool that is used for the 4th – 6th grade. The DARE officer facilitates the training. Challenge is used for the 7th – 12th grade levels.



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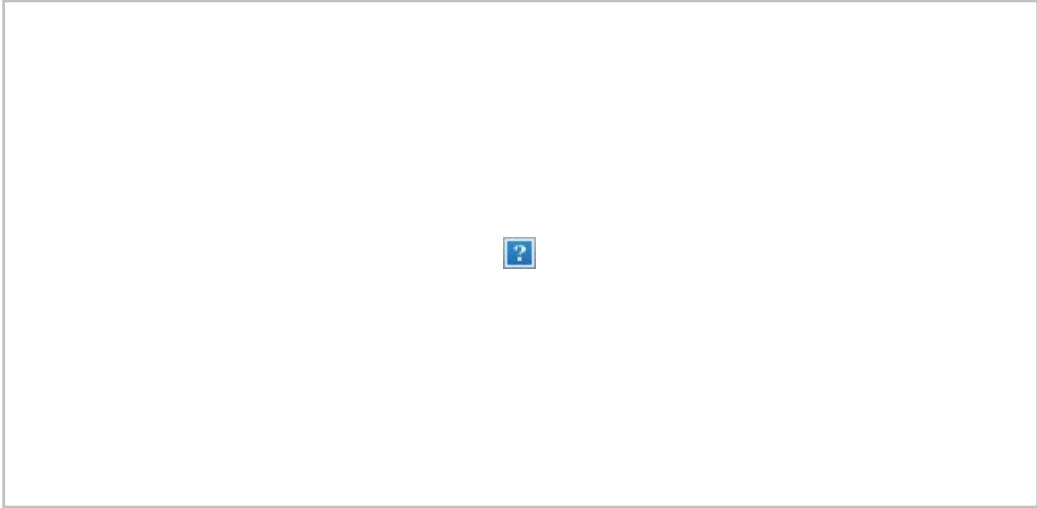
Summer Kids Kamp. A two-week camp that teaches character education and provides a safe haven for the children. The training starts following the last week of summer school, working in partnership with other organizations. The purpose of the program is to keep the children off the streets and out of trouble.

The Drug Court Program provides counselors and group sessions to help troubled teens in the court systems. Two nights per week the teens are required by the court to attend the counseling sessions.

21st Century Learning Center – After School Activities for all ages from 3:30 until 6:00pm - nightly while school is in session.

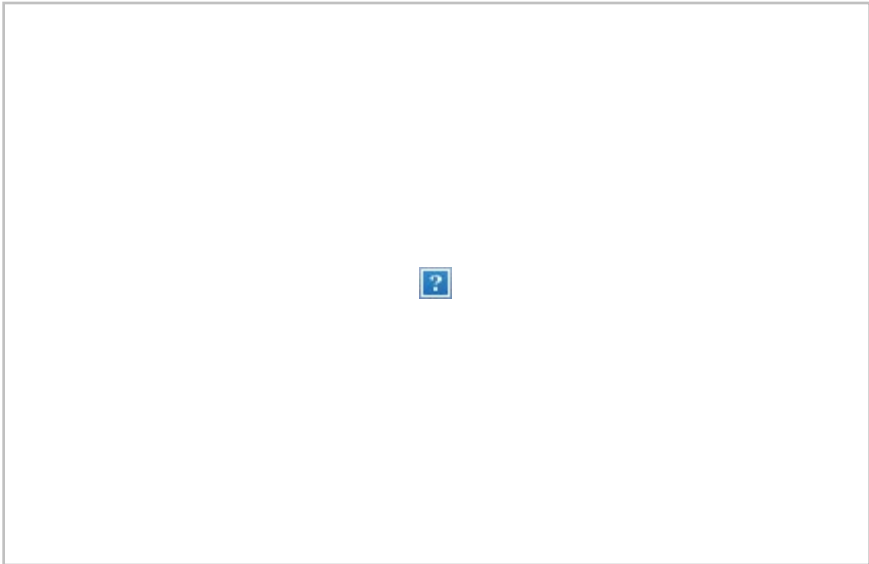
Challenges

Mississippi County manually collects detailed data for juvenile delinquency, but there is no state comparison to all violations.



Youth in Mississippi County have no activities to keep them out of trouble. Ample amount of time gives youth the opportunity to venture into at risk behaviors. Without the programs and projects that support helping children in the county, the number of occurrences will continue to increase at an alarming rate.

Results



From 1998 to 2000 the juvenile law violation rate has decreased in Mississippi County by almost 15% in two years. The After School Program and the youth mentoring programs and projects

have been successful to help keep youth out of trouble.

Program Performance Measures

The Juvenile Drug Court Program offers counseling and intervention techniques for 15 juveniles housed in the Caring Communities Center.

The East Prairie School Resource Officer has detained 7 students with possessions of drugs from being on the school campus. The officer has increased school attendance by 13%, handling 141 truancy cases and has decreased the amount of school violence by 30% since his start in January of 2001.

Since the Caring Communities Center opened its doors, several different collaborators offering services to children all ages have conducted projects and programs. Bootheel Healthy Start, Juvenile Services, Bootheel Counseling, DAEOC, and others have partnered to help get children off the street and out of trouble.

Funding/Return on Investment

The Charleston and East Prairie School Districts, the Byrne State Grant, Department of Public Safety, Juvenile Court Systems, local, and in-kind dollars, have provided funding for these strategies.

East Prairie School District	\$11,000
City of East Prairie	\$ 9,000
State/Federal	\$80,000
In-Kind	\$10,000
Charleston Public Safety	\$20,000
Caring Communities	\$845
Total	\$130,845

Noteworthy

In Mississippi County, the Partnership leverages \$6 dollars for every Caring Community dollar received.

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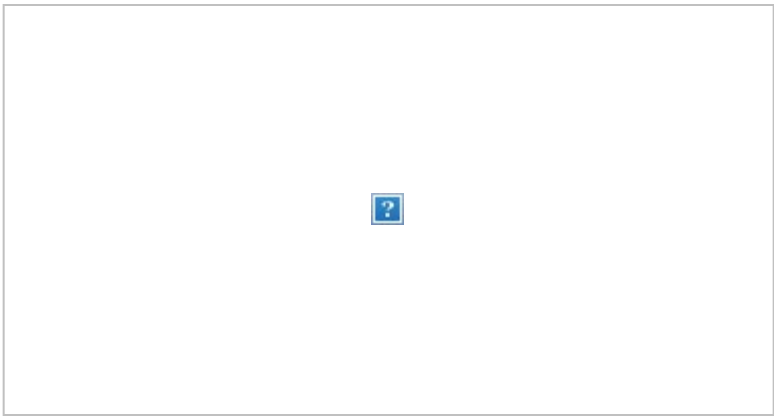
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Mississippi County Caring Communities Partnership

Core Result: Parent Working Benchmark: Unemployment Rate

February 2002



Objective

To maintain an average 5% unemployment rate for the county from 2001 – 2004.

Strategies

Moving the unemployed to employed for Mississippi County means addressing the problems of the lower skilled workers. Predominately Mississippi County's major workforce was factory work. With the closure of major factories in the last few years the unemployment rate has increased and a number of people unemployed due to the closures don't have the skills needed. The Partnership has implemented several different programs and projects that help residents return to work.

Prevention First Job Skills Classes – Classes that offer office skills and technology based learning, equipment training various other office duties.

Computer Classes – These classes offer basic computer training and advanced computer training. Learning the Internet is also available.

Dressing for Success/Closet – Learning how to dress correctly for an interview and finding the correct clothing. This is provided to everyone that completes the Job Skills Classes.

Mock Interview Session – The participants complete a resume and cover letter, a mock interview is conducted following the dressing for success component to employment. An interview is taped and the participant critiques it and the instructor.

Stress Management Classes – Unemployed workers learn how to manage time and money. Participants are asked to balance his/her budgets and to also handle conflict and children at home.



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Missouri Works – Workforce Development completes resume writing for all that need to complete resumes and registers each participant into the Missouri Works program.

Family Resource Center – The Center provides the participant with the computers necessary to sign on to Missouri Works and also offers complete assistance to workers needing help with resumes and any job related situation.

Job Fair – A partnership with the Southeast Correctional Facility to help with employment of positions at the newly opened prison.

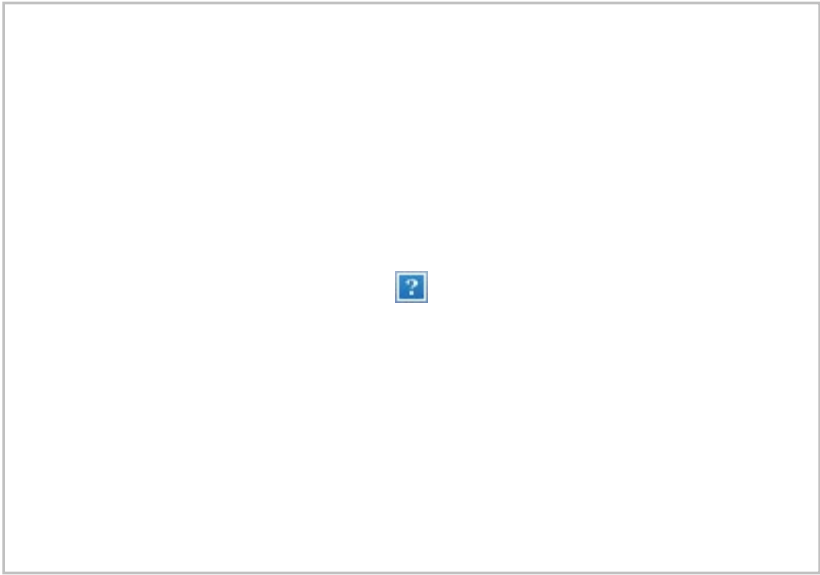
Challenges

Mississippi County is a rural, farming community with little to no industry. The major employers in the area are the two school districts and the newly opened prison facility. The economic situation today poses a problem for those workers that are low skilled, meaning fewer jobs available, which in return means an increase in the unemployment rate.

Results

Mississippi County has seen great results from the Job Skills/Computer Training Classes. The classes offered during the evening hours give those that work the opportunity to gain new knowledge as well.

More than 45 people have entered into the job skills training/computer classes, 75% completed the classes and are employed or enrolled in higher education. Four ladies interested in qualifying for prison jobs attended the nightly computer classes with Microsoft Office to learn spreadsheet applications. All four ladies are now employed with the Correctional Facility earning 10% more per household income including state benefits.



Funding/Return on Investment

The Partnership received a state grant for \$64,000 dollars to equip the classes. Workforce Development conducts classes for an investment of \$9,200 and Bootheel Healthy Start, Bootheel Counseling, local employers and business do facilitation for the classes totaling \$21,000 of in-kind.

The Partnership houses the classes in the CC Resource Center and helps to advertise for the classes. Local business donates time for a makeover per participant, part of dressing for success; free of charge a value of \$1,500.

Barriers

With the possibility of the last factory closure and the economic condition of the nation, programs like Prevention First /Job Skills is necessary to give support to those families in need. Without this service the residents in Mississippi County will not have the local means to help find employment and gain the skills needed to increase household income locally.

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Mississippi County Interagency Council/ Caring Communities

The community partnership in Mississippi County has been in operation for the last four years with the state partnership formation in February 1998. At that time, Caring Communities Steering Committee operated under the governance of the Interagency Council, two distinct Councils. In 1999, the incorporation process created one Council entitled the Interagency/Caring Communities Council of Mississippi County. The federal status of 501 c3 was approved the later part of 1999 and following the approval also received state tax-exempt status.

The partnership structure began with the Interagency Council as the governing body to the Caring Communities Steering Committee. After the reformation, The Interagency Council consisted of one general council with one Executive Board of Directors making all final decisions. The general council elects the Executive Board of Directors each year. The Executive Board consists of the following: Chair, 1st Vice-Chair, 2nd Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, two elected Charleston Representatives and two elected East Prairie Representatives. Both Community-School Linked Coordinators have operational site councils that have a President that sets on the Board. The chair appoints 5 task force standing chairs to the Board once in office. The total Board of Directors consists of 16 individuals. The Executive Board of Directors consists of only 9 elected members.

The staff hired by the council consists of an Executive Director and two Community Site Coordinators. In 2000 the partnership obtained the Caring Communities Center, which will serve as a resource center for the community. With ample room to grow, the partnership is in the process of providing early childhood services for the community along with office space for various organizations and agencies to utilize. The Center is made available to the community.

The partnership serves Mississippi County, which is a conglomerate of seven rural towns, two larger communities that have the two school districts in the county and five smaller more rural townships and villages. The county's population is 13,427 with more people located in Charleston and East Prairie, the two large communities. The other communities involved are Anniston, Bertrand, Pinhook, Wilson City and Wyatt with population less than 250.

Mississippi County is located off the intersection of Interstate 55 and 57. The county is a grassroots farming community.

Our mission for the partnership between communities, public agencies and the private sector is to improve results for children and families, by using the six core results.

- Parents Working
- Children ready to enter school
- Children succeeding in school
- Healthy Children and Families
- Children and Families safe in their homes and communities
- Youth ready to enter productive adulthood

Caring Communities in Mississippi County strives to help produce stronger more solid programs that benefit the communities involved.

The core results that MCCIC/CC has chosen are Parents Working, Children succeeding in School, Children and Families safe, and Youth ready to enter productive adulthood. Last year's Asset Mapping generated a large concern about teen pregnancy in the area along with



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c/o CEU
3418 Knipp Drive
Jefferson City, MO
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(573) 526-3581
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substance abuse. Besides the asset mapping results, the Partnership focused on the data from Missouri's Kid Count. Mississippi County ranked high in all but three areas.

The partnership networks in the county and beyond to help the communities. All programs and projects are a collaborative effort with mostly in-kind or local dollars. By working together, the partnership has generated several no cost programs and projects. The Caring Communities dollars are used to support outreach staff only.

Without the help of local and neighboring county agencies, organizations, schools and the private sector, the partnership would have not been as successful. One positive example of a community working together to help the youth is our CAAAP Coalition and the Sexual Awareness Training. More than 21 partners help to support the two. Without collaboration from people in the county and neighboring counties the partnership would have not been able to afford the training for the area students.

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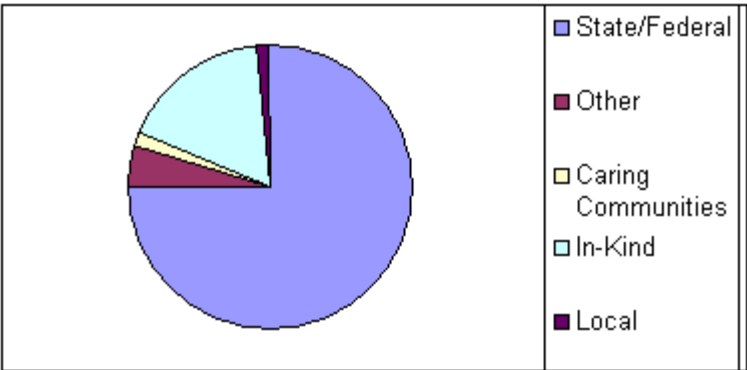
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New Madrid County Caring Communities Partnership

Core Result: Youth Entering Productive Adulthood Benchmark: High School Dropout Rate

February 2002



Caring Communities Investment

Objective

To decrease the average rate of high school dropouts in New Madrid County from 3% to 2% or below by year-end 2004 and maintain this average continually.

Target Population: New Madrid County School Districts

Strategies

Five successful strategies focus on teens to promote education in high school and beyond. Although New Madrid County has maintained a lower rate than the State of Missouri, there is a continued effort to sustain a low high school drop out rate, which contributes to preparing youth for a productive adulthood.

Job Readiness Training ~ Implemented 1999

This pre-employment training prepares youth for employment and its goal is to aid in their success on the job. The training includes, but is not limited to: Self-assessment, Career Exploration, and Resume Writing/Job Application Completion. After completion of training, youth are eligible for services and support to assist them in finding employment.

**Currently there are 71 youth enrolled in this program

PARENT Classes ~ Implemented 1999

A parenting education class is offered to pregnant/parenting youth to address issues relevant to parenting, such as health and wellness, safety, and proper child development. Area providers are asked to attend so that they may offer more information about their services.

Mentor Support ~ Implemented 1999



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The mentor theory is the paradigm of a caring individual who volunteers to serve as a role model in the worksite/community for the purpose of promoting achievement of professional or personal goals.

**28 mentors have committed to be a role model

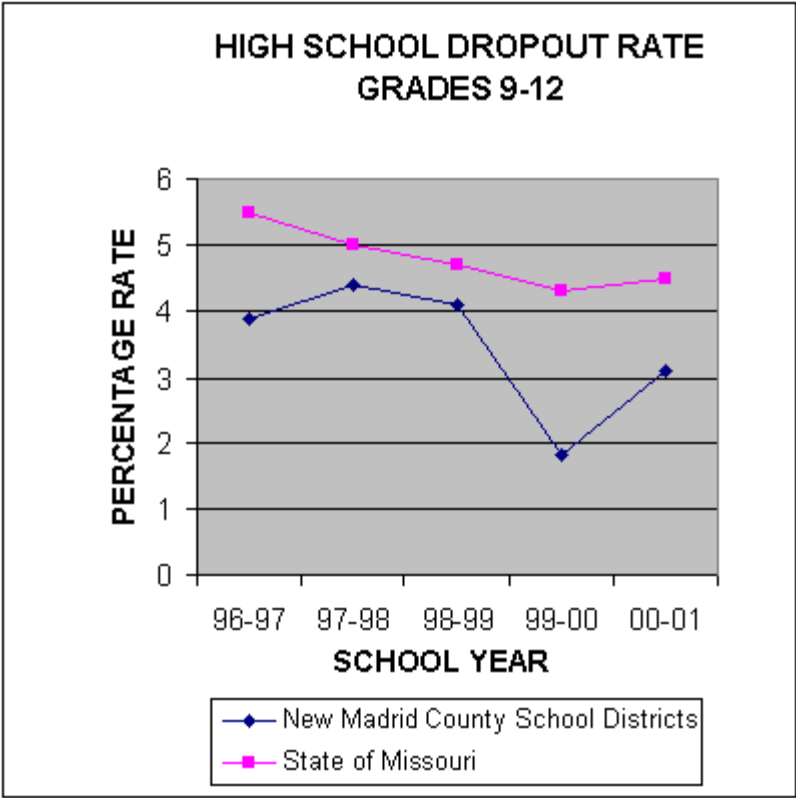
Monthly Support Meetings ~ Implemented 1999

Worksite youth or young parent participants are encouraged to attend monthly support meetings. These meetings are other opportunities to increase knowledge, awareness, and develop positive life skills. Examples are: Career Night, Infant/Child Safety, or College Night/Financial Aid.

Educational Assistance ~ Implemented 1999

A great deal of importance is placed on education. Every youth active in the program is required to be in an educational component such as high school, GED, vocational school, community college, or on-the-job training or a four-year college or university. Youth are encouraged to take the ACT/SAT and apply for scholarships. Missouri Mentoring Partnership assists youth with these costs realizing it may not be feasibly possible and doesn't want this challenge to be a barrier to reaching success.

Results



Source: Missouri Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education

Funding/Return on Investment

State/Federal	\$156,435.33
WIA/Susanna Wesley Funds	\$10,250.00
Caring Communities	\$3300.00
In-Kind	\$36,700.00
Local	\$2500.00

Noteworthy

“Mentoring works to make a difference in a young person’s life, by encouraging completion of high school, less participation in risky behaviors, avoidance of repeat pregnancies, and making

positive decisions.” Patriece D. Minner, Missouri Mentoring Partnership Coordinator

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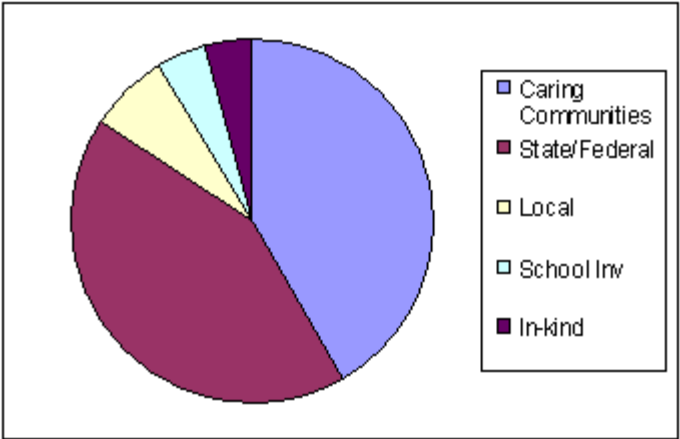
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New Madrid County Caring Communities Partnership

Core Result: Children succeeding in school
Benchmark: MAP Scores

February 2002



Caring Communities Investment

Objective

To increase the percentage of students scoring in the three top levels on the MAP test scores, by 2-4% by the year-end of 2003.

Target Population: Portageville School District Elementary Students.

Strategies

Four successful components were implemented during the school year of 2000-2001 to improve school attendance, to increase parental involvement, to recognize individuals and/or groups for academic performance, and to provide after school tutoring. Two are highlighted below.

After School Tutoring

Implemented Beginning August 2000

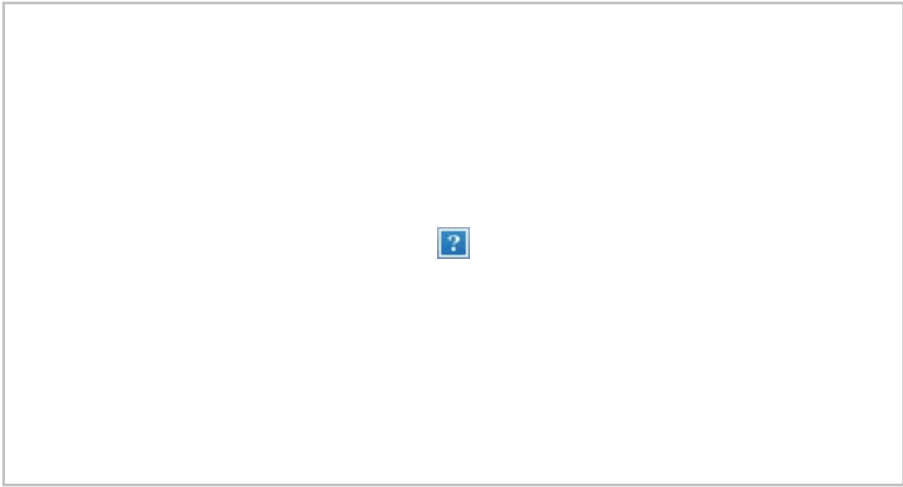
The Caring Communities Partnership partnered with Portageville School District to offer tutoring services four days a week after school. Referrals came from teachers and parents.



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Program Performance Measures

****Forty students were reported for failing grades. 37 of those students completed the After School Tutoring Program.**

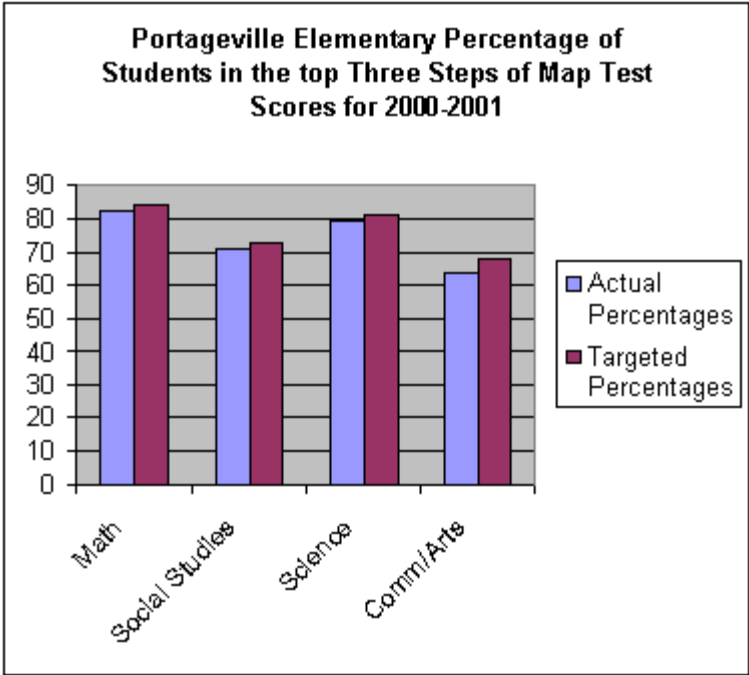
****60 % of the students completing the After School Tutoring Program increased their grade level by 2 points or higher, on a 10 point scale.**

Increased Parental Involvement

Implemented Beginning August 1999
Family Fun Nights was implemented along with eleven other programs. These programs have provided support for parents to become more education oriented within their homes and has promoted family involvement with each other and with the school district. Another goal was to make the school seem more user friendly and provide a positive culture for parents and students to feel welcomed. Ultimately, this strategy was implemented to increase the number of parents to visit parent/teacher conferences so that the teachers could visit with parents about their child's academics.

****Parent attendance increases in Parent/Teacher conferences from 76% to 83%**

Results



Funding/Return on Investment

Caring Communities	\$13,000.00
State/Federal	\$13,220.00
Local	\$2300.00
School Investment	\$1356.00
In-Kind	\$1285.00

**Less than half of the funding for this benchmark was financed with Caring Communities dollars.

**For school year 2001-2002, Caring Community Dollars have decreased by more than 50%

Noteworthy

“We know that there is a direct correlation between class grades and achievement test scores” –
Sandy Mudd, Portageville Elementary Principal

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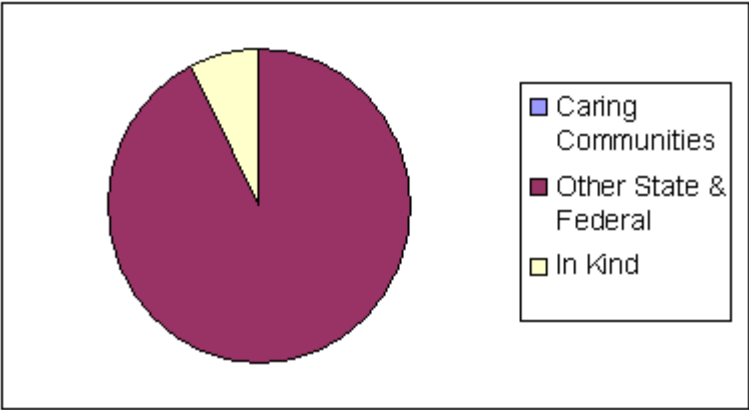
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New Madrid County Caring Communities Partnership

Core Result: Children succeeding in school
Benchmark: MAP Scores

February 2002



Caring Communities Investment

Objective

To decrease the unemployment rate from an average of 7.6% in 1998 to an average of 5.0% by 2004 in New Madrid County.

Target Population: Adult and Dislocated workers that meet the criteria of the Workforce Investment Act.

Strategies

Four successful components have been implemented and recognized to decrease and sustain a low unemployment rate in New Madrid County.

STEPS Program (implemented in 2001)

Enrolls adult and dislocated workers to assist them with employment related needs such as: resumes, applications, transportation needs, employment and education resources and workforce training. Participants of the program are case managed on an ongoing basis to assist them in overcoming barriers they may have in obtaining and sustaining employment.

Transportation Initiative (implemented in 1999)

Southeast Missouri Transportation Services currently operates three (3) buses on daily routes to and from Tyson Foods, Inc. in Dexter through a grant from the Private Industry Council. This opportunity allows customers who have barriers with transportation gain successful employment. Bus passes are purchased to offer sustainability to the program and allow the customer to feel a sense of “buy in”.



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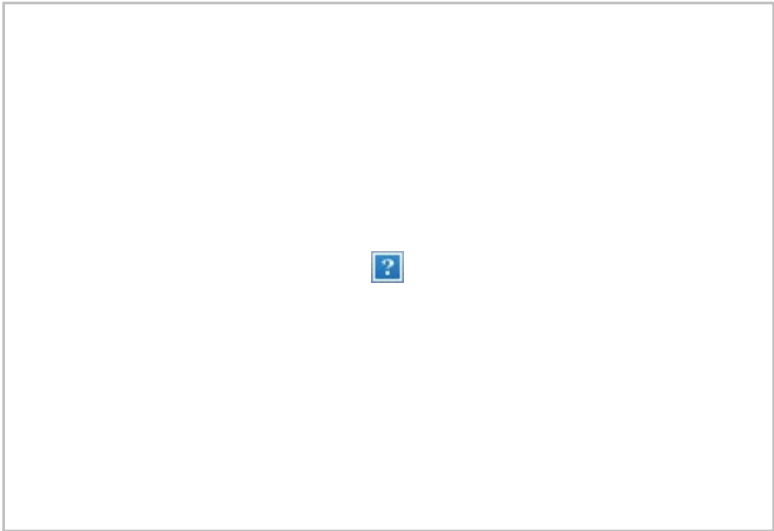
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Bus riders pay \$15 per week to access transportation services to Tyson Food, Inc.

Workforce Preparation (implemented in 1999)
Workforce Development and Creative Communities conduct Job Readiness Classes on a monthly basis to customers who are actively seeking employment or who wish to upgrade their marketable skills. Participants are offered individual training on communication, resumes, interview skills, job retention, and computer skills.

Mini-Job Fairs (implemented in 2001)
Links various employers to customers at the Family Resource Center. These job fairs are conducted once a quarter, customers have the opportunity to fill out applications and find out about possible employment opportunities. Employers invited to job fairs are currently accepting applications and conduct on the spot interviews.

Results



Funding/Return on Investment

Caring Communities	\$ 0.00
In-kind	\$ 6,500.00
State/Federal	\$ 80,158.00

Noteworthy

**STEPS Program target number of enrollees is 79 adult and dislocated workers; currently the program has 100 participants.

**Through the Transportation Initiative there have been 150 individuals employed at Tyson Foods, Inc. and accessed the bus service.

**Four Mini Job Fairs have successfully employed 14 individuals.

Barriers / Road Blocks

The closing of several factories located in New Madrid County has been a large obstacle to helping find employment for many residents. This presents a huge barrier in that most employment in New Madrid County is centered around the factory industry.

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New Madrid County Caring Communities Partnership

New Madrid County is primarily a farming rural community located in the Missouri Bootheel with a population of approximately 21,000 with a labor force of 9,237 and is located on the New Madrid Earthquake Fault along side the Mississippi River. According to the Missouri State 1990 Census Data, the median average family income is \$21,665.00. There are four county school districts: New Madrid R-1, Portageville Public Schools, Gideon No.37, and Risco R-II.

In March 1998, New Madrid County Human Resources Council Community Partnership (NMCHRCCP) was formed by a group of community leaders for the purpose of improving communications, reducing duplication of services, collaborating in county planning, and acting for the betterment of families in New Madrid County. The charge is to gather human service professions, church leadership, businesses, educators, parents, and concerned citizens for the common cause of empowering families and individuals to become more self-reliant, responsible, and resourceful. The focus is on six core results: (1) Parents Working (2) Healthy Children and Families (3) Children safe in their families – families safe in their communities (4) Children prepared to enter school (5) Children and youth succeeding in school (6) Youth ready to enter productive adulthood.

NMCHRCCP is a non-profit corporation with a fifteen-member executive Board of Directors and a thirty member Human Resources Council. The Board of Directors has formal decision process under the guidance of the Human Resources Council. The Council consists of community members, public and private partners, partnership staff, and the executive committee in which provides the leadership and serves on the executive Board of Directors. The Partnership has an Executive Director that provides direction for daily operations and supervision of three program coordinators and five staff personnel.

New Madrid County Human Resources Council Community Partnership has successfully leveraged 6 times the budgeted amount of \$173,920.00 with in-kind, state and federal, and local investments. NMCHRCCP directly oversees 8 funding streams and 5 programs to provide programs correlated with the six core results.

Although five communities, New Madrid, Portageville, Howardville, Risco, and Gideon, were chosen through an application and evaluation process, the six core results are all being targeted with various programs and sites that serve all of New Madrid County. Portageville, Risco, and Gideon School Districts are the main focus in these communities. In New Madrid, the New Madrid County Family Resource Center has been operating as a Missouri Career Center with a "one stop shop" philosophy since November 1999. Howardville, our newest (July 2001), is a community based program that focuses on needs and gaps of service for the entire community.

MISSION STATEMENT

The New Madrid County Human Resources Council Community Partnership has accepted the mission of becoming the lead sponsoring partnership agency with the State of Missouri. To accomplish this mission, the Council will unity human service providers, churches, businesses, educational systems, community members and local/county government representatives to better service the needs of the citizens of New Madrid County.



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The efforts of the Council will result in more effective use of resources. The task will be to identify gaps in services, eliminate duplication, and enhance existing programs through cooperative and collaborative efforts and promote economic development. The Partnership will also seek progressive and creative ways to develop new resources and funding. It is the desire of the New Madrid County Human Resources Council Community Partnership to have a safe, diverse community wherein all persons, families, and friends are respected and have a full opportunity to be involved and to achieve productive, happy and healthy lives.

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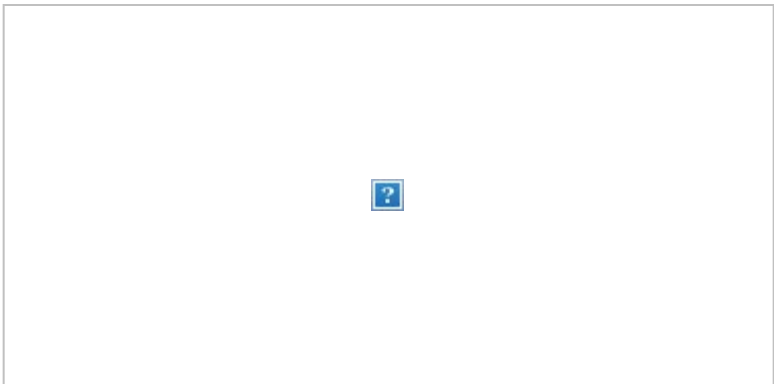
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Pemiscot County Pemiscot County Initiative Network

Core Result: Youth Ready To Enter Productive Adulthood Benchmark: Graduation Rate

February 2002



Objective

Increase graduation rate in Pemiscot County from 73.8% in 1997 to 80% by 2004.

Strategies

Pemiscot County has initiated a comprehensive strategy to increase the graduation rate in three county high schools. Our strategy includes collaborative efforts among several partners, including PIN, the schools, employers, mentors, and the community to provide career education, job placement, and supportive services to youth at risk of dropping out of school. The following brief descriptions represent some of the programs and services that partners contribute toward improving the graduation rate in Pemiscot County.

Pemiscot County Initiative Network

Missouri Mentoring Project participants in three high schools -- Caruthersville High School, Hayti High School and North Pemiscot High School -- receive services in the following program components:

Job Readiness - Youth develop job readiness skills and good work habits through participation in workforce prep classes.

Job Placement – Participants are placed in part-time jobs in the community to apply their work readiness skills.

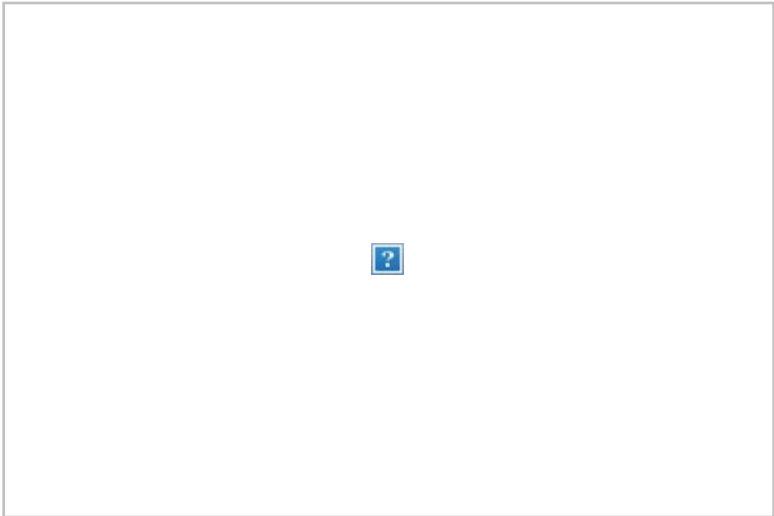
Job Recruitment – Recruitment of employers to partner with MMP to provide jobs and mentors for program participants.

On-site Mentoring – One-to-one mentoring relationship and job shadowing to reinforce workforce skills for participants.

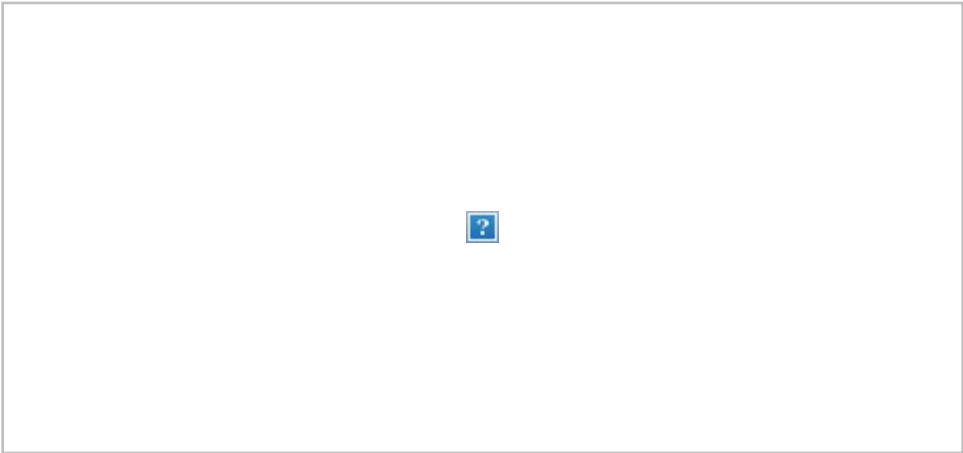


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MMP Work Readiness Skills Pre/Post Test 2001



The following brief descriptions represent some of the programs and services that partners contribute toward improving the graduation rate in Pemiscot County.

Pemiscot County Initiative Network (continued)

Families & Communities Connecting

A faith-based family mentoring program that promotes self-sufficiency to foster a loving, supportive, relationship to help families achieve and maintain independence.
Schools

21st Century Schools

After school educational and recreational program for all students and adults in Pemiscot County.

T.E.A.M.

Works with at-risk youth in an informal environment that will allow the opportunity to counsel, direct, provide small group counseling, monitor homebound assistance and credit recovery, and keep a close check on absentees.

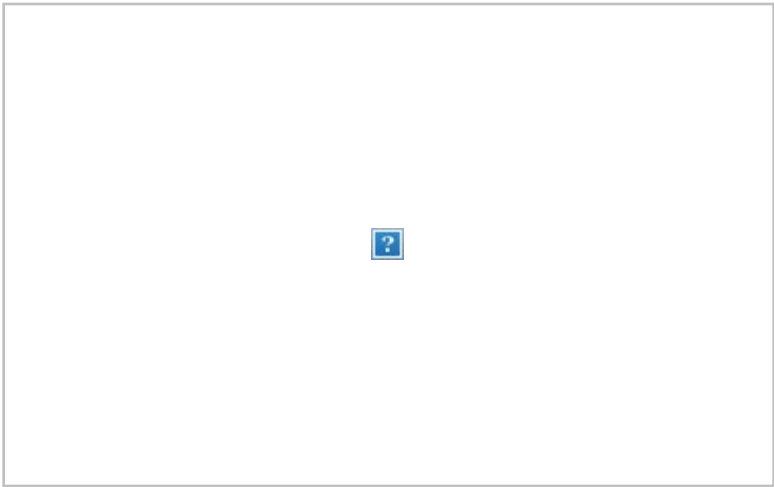
G.E.A.R. UP

Gaining Early Awareness for Undergraduate Programs. Works with 7th grade students, following them through high school, and encourages them to pursue higher education.
Schools and Employers

School to Careers

Career education program for students in grades K-12. Creates an opportunity for job shadowing, paid and unpaid work experiences, on-the-job training, and career development.

Results



Funding/Return on Investment

Federal	
WIB	\$47,878
Spirals (Private Industry Council)	30,500
AmeriCorps	13,000
State	
Missouri Mentoring	\$73,334
Youth Opportunities Program (Tax Credit)	66,000
Community Development Block Grant	66,290
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	11,200
In-Kind	\$22,000
Local	5,000
Total	\$335,202

Barriers/Roadblocks

Due to the lack of staffing and funding, MMP is unable to expand into three additional school districts in Pemiscot County.

Noteworthy

Missouri Mentoring Partnership program participants graduate at a rate that is significantly greater than the county’s graduation rate!

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Pemiscot County Initiative Network

February 15, 2002

Structure of Partnership

The Pemiscot County Initiative Network's membership consists of citizens of Pemiscot County. The membership elects nineteen (19) Board of Directors. The elected board members represents the community in areas of: Agribusiness, Manufacturing, Education, Concerned Citizens, Social Services, Banking and Finance, Port Authority, Medical Profession, Law Enforcement, Food Services, Employment Security, Local Government, and Religion.

The Board of Directors employs a Director, Manager of Administrative Services and a Caring Community Site Coordinator. Membership is open to any interested individual and no dues are charged. PIN is certified by the state of Missouri as a Not-For-Profit Corporation; was organized and incorporated October 31, 1994; was designated by the Deputy Directors as a Community Partnership in 1998; and was designated a 501(c)(3) organization by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service in April of 1999.

Geographic scope/ Demographics

Pemiscot County, located in the southeast corner of Missouri, has for many decades been a heavy agricultural county with emphasis on cotton and other crops, including corn and soybeans. During the early decades of the 1900s, the farming industry provided the majority of the employment opportunities for the population. With the advent of mechanized farming in the late 40's, jobs became scarce, and a significant percentage of the workforce moved out of the area to find work. The population decreased from nearly 47,000 in 1940 to 20,047 in 2000.

The large out migration and loss of jobs created a poor economic climate in the county, and even though concerted efforts were made to attract business and industry to replace the lost farm jobs, the population decreased, unemployment soared, and the welfare rolls increased. Unemployment rates were, for many years, in the double digits and persons at the poverty level increased, causing the county to be ranked as the poorest in the State of Missouri.

Although statistics have improved some, a number of problems continue to plague the county's economy. Current (August 2001) Pemiscot County unemployment rates are well above the national levels, averaging 9.7 percent. Current employed in the county is 7,055 with a decline of 683 jobs from May to June of 2001. Per capita income in 1998 was \$14,371; median family income was \$16,138, setting the poverty in 1995. Sixty-five (65) percent of school-age children lived in poverty in 1995. In 1999 56.3% of children received food stamps. In 1999 63% of children were enrolled in free/reduced lunch.

Although out migration has slowed significantly, the county continues to show a loss of population. The high school dropout rate, 7.3% in 1999, with 32% of persons above age 21 having graduated from high school. The total school enrollment in the county was approximately 4,500 in 1966. Of persons 25 years old or older, 29% have completed the 9th grade; 32% have completed grade 12, 11% has some college, and 7% are college graduates. Ethnicity: White, 74%; African-American, 25%, other, 1 %. Kids County in Missouri 2000's composite county rank for Pemiscot County is 114.

Mission statement/vision

The mission of PIN is to gather human service professionals, church leadership, the business community, educators, parents, and concerned citizens, (without regard to race, gender, religion, or sex) for a common cause. This cause is to better serve the needs of the total community



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through empowering families and individuals to become more self-reliant, responsible, and resourceful.

Two goals are collaboration and the promotion of family values by assisting in family needs that will enable the community to define their own priorities and agendas, based on the needs, assets, and vision. The focus is on the six core results. The combined efforts of this network will result in a more effective use of diminishing resources.

The Community's Priorities

Parents Working, Children Succeeding in School, Youth Ready to enter Productive Adulthood are current priorities. Pemiscot County's demographics indicate deficiencies in all six (6)-core results. However, it was determined that successful progress in these areas would have a positive effect on the other three core results.

The Site Council, committees, including one for each result, Input, Evaluation, CDBG, PIN staff, PIN Board of Directors, and members of PIN are active in identifying needs and selecting core results priorities. Consensus is reached as to the need of the community and the plan is developed to meet these needs.

Community partners

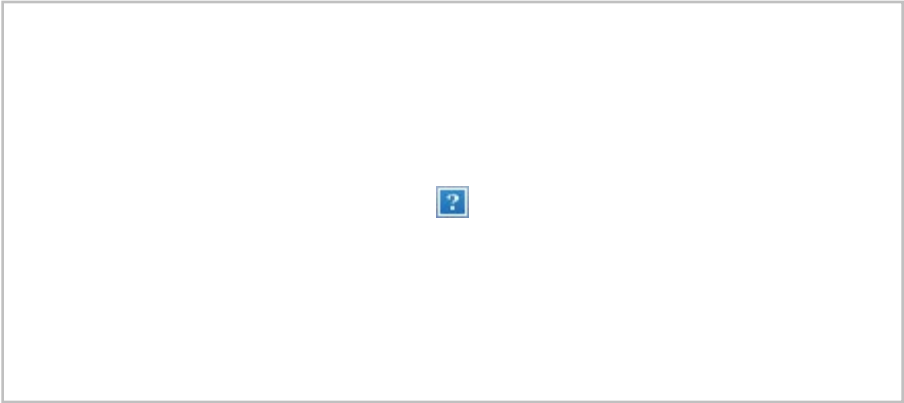
PIN's community partnership consists of: All eight (8) public schools districts, many religious organizations, over sixty (60) businesses and corporations, Regional Inter-Agency Network, Creative Communities, numerous citizens of Pemiscot County, Women's Health Conference which includes approximately 16 Bootheel area organizations, area colleges and universities, Missouri Career Center, and other governmental agencies.

Overall successes/challenges

PIN has been very successful in using Caring Community funds to leverage dollars form a variety of sources and using these funds to implement systems that will address prioritized local community problems and needs that will focus services and maximize results.

Partnership budget/leveraging

Caring Communities allocation to PIN (\$101,280) is 3.52% of the total projected budget of \$2,875,170 for FY02. PIN was successful in leveraging a total of \$2,773,890 for FY02.



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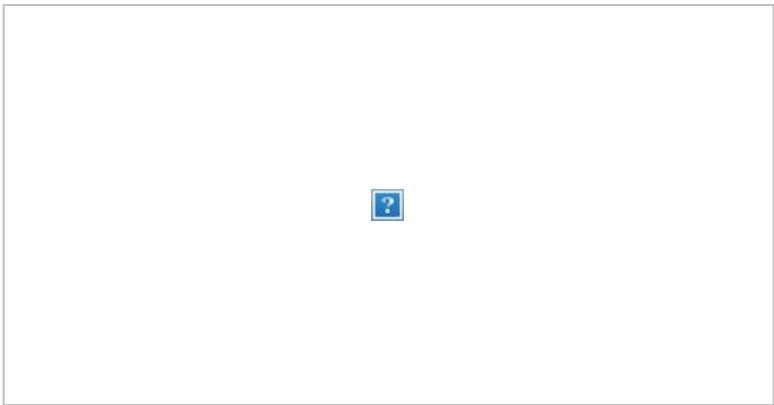
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Pettis County Caring Communities Partnership

Core Result: Children succeeding in school
Benchmark: Births To Teens, ages 15 – 19

February 2002



Objective

To decrease the teen pregnancy rate in Pettis County from 94 births per 1000 girls, ages 15 -19 to below 50 births per 1000 girls, by year end 2005.

Strategies

July, 2001, Pettis County Community Partnership helped to form a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition to aid in the reduction of the teen pregnancy rate in Pettis County. Some strategies already implemented such as Postponing Sexual Involvement did not have the impact that we wanted. The Coalition's mission is to educate the community and develop additional strategies to address the problem.

Baby Think It Over – allows students to care for “computerized babies” that simulate the experience of caring for a real baby. Since implementation of this program in 1999, four school districts in the county have used the babies each year. The students have expressed in their pre and post tests the appreciation they have for the amount of time and effort that it takes to care for a baby.

“Empathy Belly” Pregnancy Simulator – is an action-oriented, hands-on teaching aid to use with teenagers, male and female, to let them “experience” more than 20 of the typical symptoms and effects of pregnancy. Teens discover for themselves the many “price tags” or negative consequences that a pregnancy would impose on their teen-age lifestyle.



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Interim Office
c/o CEU
3418 Knipp Drive
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65201
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Teen Pregnancy Prevention Education – is the mission of the coalition. Abstinence-focused curriculum has been identified but funds are needed for implementation. Sedalia School District #200, the largest district in the county, is anticipating implementing this new curriculum, hopefully in the fall of 2002.

Successes:

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition has a good cross-section of the community involved in the bi-monthly meetings. Representation comes from: parents, students, Pettis County Health Center, Division of Family Services, There Is Hope Ministries (home for pregnant teens), Birthright, school nurse, school board member, mental health professional, teachers, churches, and media.

Although, the introduction of a teen pregnancy prevention program in our community may generate conflict and differences of opinion, we are excited that so many organizations and individuals have agreed to work together to address this problem.

Even though the coalition has only been meeting for six months, we believe that we have accomplished a lot by getting the largest school district in Pettis County to agree to new curriculum and using a mandatory class such as P.E. as the vehicle which will reach a broader number of students.

The coalition has received newspaper coverage and has also been asked to speak to civic organizations. The word is getting out that a group of concerned citizens is working to do something about the high teen pregnancy rate in Pettis County.

Challenges:

Getting citizens to understand the scope of the teen pregnancy problem in Pettis County has been challenging. Most residents of the county do not know that teens are engaging in sexual activity at an earlier age and also that teens are likely to not use contraception.

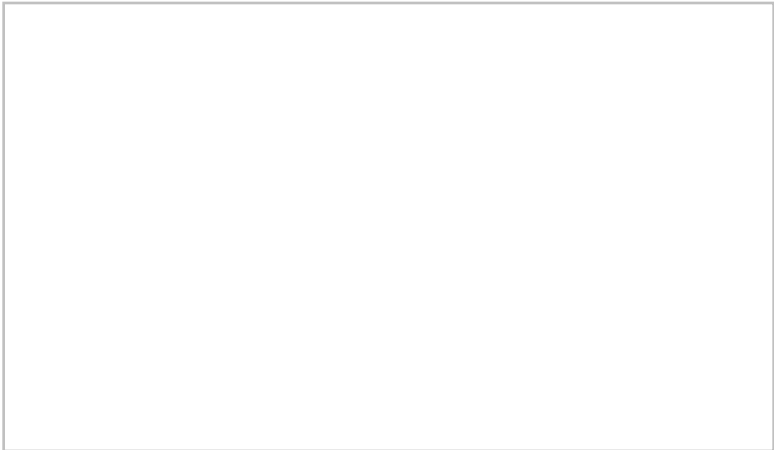
Observations:

Not only is the teen pregnancy rate high in Pettis County but the rate for sexually transmitted diseases are high as well, which leads us to the importance of implementing abstinence focused curriculum.

Our research tells us that the children of teen mothers are at significantly increased risk of low birth weight and prematurity, mental retardation, poverty, growing up without a father, dependence upon public assistance, poor school performance, insufficient health care, inadequate parenting and abuse and neglect.

Local teen attitudes about being parents at a young age are alarming. For example a recent response of "READY" from a fifteen year old Pettis County female when asked on a Baby Think It Over pre-simulation questionnaire "What one word would best describe your feelings if you were to become a parent in the next year" tells us we need to find some way to change this thinking. We are aware that no one intervention method has all the answers and that is why we want to add an additional sex education curriculum.

Results



Funding/Return on Investment

Caring Communities	\$1,250
Local Investment	\$3,200
In-Kind	\$37,982
Total	\$42,432

Caring Communities dollars were used to implement the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition and to support the training for the new curriculum.

We were able to leverage \$32.94 for every Caring Communities dollar.

Noteworthy

Seventeen people interested in seeing that different sex education curriculum be implemented in the schools in Pettis County traveled to Lebanon, MO in August to attend the “Best Choices” training session at their own expense and time. Lebanon schools embraced this curriculum two years ago and are waiting to reap the benefits over the next few years.

Barriers

Navigating school bureaucracy to get new programs/curriculum into schools is a barrier many groups like the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition encounter.

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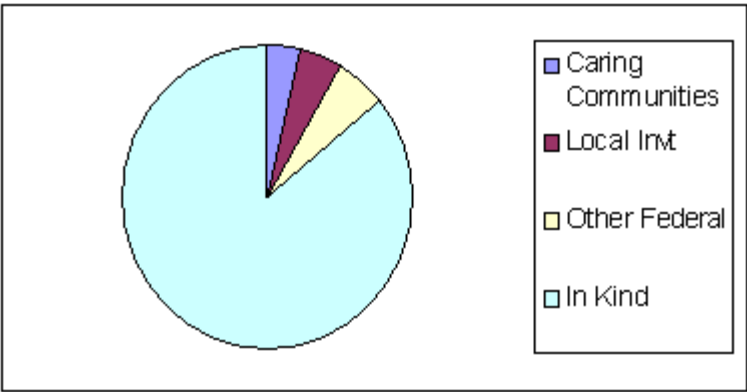
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Pettis County Caring Communities Partnership

Core Result: Children & Families Healthy
Benchmark: Preventable Emergency Room Admissions

February 2002



Caring Communities Investment

Objective

To decrease emergency room admissions of Pettis County residents by 20% from 11,296 admissions in 1999 to 9,037 by 2003 (per MICA data)

Strategies

The most pressing health care concern for Pettis County is access for underserved populations to affordable, quality primary health care. Residents without health care insurance tend to delay seeking care – so that a preventable situation turns into treatment at an emergency level – are getting primary care in the ER at extraordinary cost.

Many newly arrived immigrants find themselves without health insurance and a primary health care provider so their alternative is to seek help through the emergency room services. By having a free clinic available we are hoping that people will seek medical care at an earlier stage and thus prevent an illness from escalating to an emergency situation.

Community Free Clinic – we will support the work of the Free Clinic, which provides medical services to the uninsured and underinsured, by providing volunteer staff through the RSVP program (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) at Pettis County Community Partnership. The Executive Director of Pettis County Community Partnership serves on the board of the Free Clinic.



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Emergency Medical Fund – is available to cover over-the-counter medicines such as aspirin and pain relievers, cold medication, etc rather than having citizens go to the emergency room for these types of medication.

Health & Safety Fair – will educate the public on the risk factors and warning signs of heart disease and stroke.

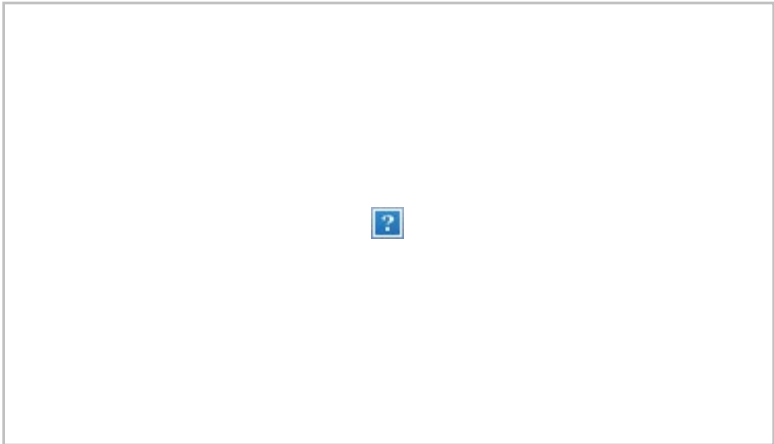
Spanish Speaking Interpreter – will help Latino families with medical needs.

Successes:

Believing in the premise that all people should have access to medical care, community individuals and health and human service agencies got together to start a free clinic to help people in this community receive primary health care services. That one idea blossomed and developed into the Community Free Clinic. Many community organizations and individuals have contributed to the organization of the Community Free Clinic, they include: Pettis County Community Partnership, Division of Family Services, Pettis County Health Center, Center for Human Services, The Salvation Army, Bothwell Regional Health Care Center, Dr. D. Allcorn, Dr. T. Reed, Dr. A Gonzalez, Dr. V. Mangunta, Dr. K Azan, and Harmony Baptist Association.

The Community Free Clinic is totally staffed by volunteers including physicians, nurses, and receptionists. The financing to date has been from donations by patients and other interested persons.

Costs have been kept low by donations of supplies and pharmaceuticals from various drug representatives. The use of the building is donated by one of the physicians. Clients donate about \$200 per week or average about \$2.00 per person.



Challenges:

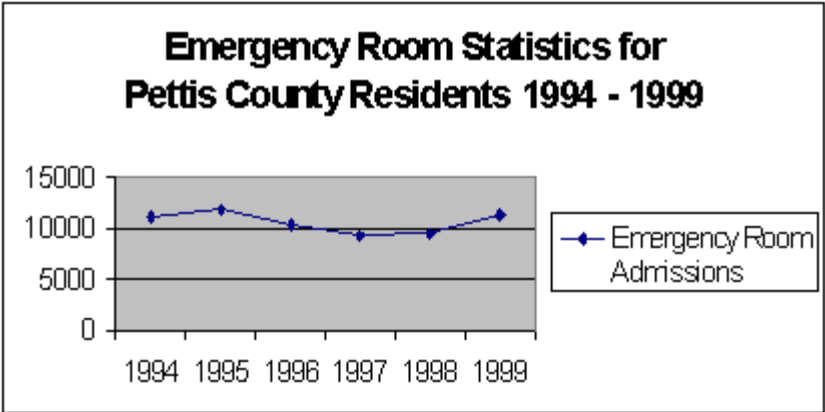
Physician staffing at the Community Free Clinic may escalate to crisis status soon as the two primary doctors who volunteer are already retired and need to cut back on the amount of hours they work. Without the free clinic, emergency room visits will undoubtedly rise well above acceptable numbers. Translated into dollars and cents that means people will pay up to three times as much for routine care as they would have paid at a physician's office. These are people who are unable to afford the medical expenses in the first place.

Of the 11,296 local emergency room admissions in 1999 twenty-six percent of them were categorized as "self pay" or "no coverage" which translates into higher health care costs, as many individuals in this category will not be able to pay their bills.

A major employer of the Latino population here in Pettis County has mandatory health care insurance for their employees but the insurance does not go into effect for 60 days after the hire date. During that 60 day period the employee is on their own to pay for medical expenses, which they may not be able to afford.

Observations/Actions:

As a result of working on preventable emergency room admissions, we found that many families are going without proper dental care. Very few dentists take Medicaid patients so it is easier for families to do without than to drive out of town for a Medicaid dentist. The Multicultural Health & Welfare committee is working on strategies concerning dental care.



Just when we think emergency room visits have declined in the period 1996 through 1998, the numbers in 1999 indicate a rapid climb in just one year. A concerted effort is being made to understand this trend. Numbers for the year 2000 have not been released to date to see if this trend is continuing.

According to www.healthpages.com going to an emergency room instead of scheduling a doctor's appointment has become a trend in this country. They go on to say that in 1996, a whopping 55% of the 90 million visits to emergency rooms were unnecessary.

Funding/Return on Investment

Caring Communities	\$18,748
Local Investment	\$21,850
Other State & Federal	\$25,000
In-Kind	\$426,937
Total	\$492,535

For every Caring Communities dollar we receive we are able to leverage \$23.94 to see that children and families are healthy.

The clinic is staffed by volunteers who include physicians, nurses, clerical staff and other caring and concerned citizens and the use of the building is donated by one of the physicians.

Noteworthy

- Several members of the Community Free Clinic board recently visited the Family Health Center in Columbia, MO, which is a member of the Missouri Primary Care Association.
- Because of the physician staffing problem going forward we may, in the long term, consider becoming a satellite office of the Family Health Center in Columbia. Or we may look at partnering with nearby counties to establish a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).
- RSVP spent 3,895 volunteer hours at the Free Clinic last year – making appointments, filing records, seeing patients, etc...

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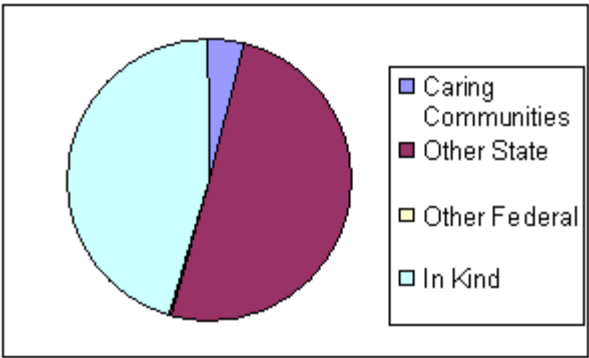
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Pettis County Caring Communities Partnership

Core Result: Parents working
Benchmark: Unemployment Rate

February 2002



Caring Communities Investment

Objectives

Short term objective: To maintain a 5.4% unemployment rate from July 2001 to July 2002.

Long term objective: To maintain an average unemployment rate in Pettis County of 4.6% over the next three years, 2001 – 2004.

Strategies

Pettis County Community Partnership realizes that it is very difficult to address the unemployment rate in Pettis County when it is tied directly to economic issues. Rather than throwing in the towel and saying we can't do anything about the unemployment rate, the site councils and the partnership implemented these strategies to address unemployment:

Job Shop – On-the-spot interviews at the job fair will give participants the opportunity to interact with potential employers as well as learn about different careers.

Apprenticeship Program – working through the University of Missouri we will offer apprenticeship jobs to Pettis County residents.

Computer Classes – will provide adults an opportunity to learn computer skills that they can use on the job.



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Career Closet – will provide clothing to Putting Families First participants and other low-income families who are interviewing for jobs.

Family Literacy Center – will help adults attain their GED.

Putting Families First, sponsored by Pettis County Community Partnership helps families transition from public assistance to work through a faith-based mentoring program.

Successes:

Working in collaboration with public agencies, such as DFS and private organizations, such as the local Workforce Development Investment Board, Putting Families First designed and implemented a unique partnership between these groups for the purpose of reducing welfare dependency. The intent of this mentoring program is to provide time, advice, encouragement, and technical assistance.

Mentoring teams from area churches help parents find employment, engage in conversations about work ethics and motivation, and investigate job training opportunities in the community. The team also provides assistance in helping the family succeed at goals they have set for themselves, for example obtaining more schooling may be a long term goal, but getting and keeping a job may be a short term necessity.

Currently there are 21 church mentoring teams which encompass 77 volunteer mentors who have been trained. These teams are working with 26 families, including 62 children. Of the 34 participants currently enrolled in the program 24 of them are employed.

Thirteen families have spent a full year in the program and are well on their way to self-sufficiency.

Business partners and many concerned citizens have made in-kind donations of over \$9500.

These donations include: 8 cars, new tires, \$3000 in auto repairs, furniture, appliances, and electrical work.

Challenges:

Information permitting the measurement of whether low-skill workers are being negatively impacted by labor market conditions is not directly available.

We do know that Missouri's economy mirrors the national economy closely and its shows that the unemployment rates are higher than average for teenagers and for women who maintain families. The national trend shows that unemployment rates for individuals with less than a high school diploma are higher than for those with more education. Finding and keeping jobs is constantly a challenge for families on public assistance.

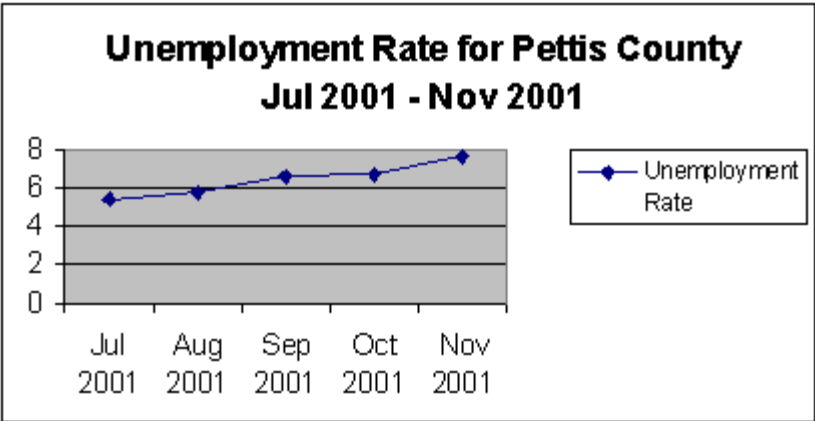
A report from the Missouri Economic Research & Information Center tells us that continued weakness in the economy will possibly lead to the increasing selectiveness of employers who are hiring which translates to fewer job opportunities for low-skilled workers.

Observations/Actions:

As a result of working with families in the Putting Families First program the community became aware of the need for transitional housing and public transportation. The Partnership has been a leader in getting businesses to back a public transportation system known as the Community Transportation Partnership.

A new coalition has formed this year to take action on starting a new transitional housing unit for Pettis County. Four Partnership staff are actively involved in getting the coalition "Putting Roofs Over People" (PROP) started and the project underway.

Results



From July 2001 to Nov 2001 the unemployment rate in Pettis County increased dramatically. Many factors such as local plant closings and company bankruptcies played into the rise of unemployment.

Continued weakness in the economy will only make this picture worse. That is why programs like Putting Families First are needed so that families who might otherwise “fall through the cracks” have a place to turn for support.

Funding/Return on Investment

For every Caring Communities dollar we receive for the core result Parents Working we are able to leverage \$23.78.

\$1200 of Caring Communities funds go towards transportation for those enrolled in the Apprenticeship Classes. The employer is funding 10 apprenticeships valued at \$7,000 each for a total investment of \$70,000, which is a return on Caring Communities dollars of \$58.33.

Caring Communities provides the space for the Career Closet and has received in-kind donations valued at \$3500 to date.

Caring Communities partners with the Sedalia Housing Authority in offering beginning computer classes. The Housing Authority provides the computers and class space and Caring Communities provides the teacher and volunteer help for a return on our investment of \$3.83 per Caring Communities dollar.

We provide space and volunteers for the family literacy center and State Fair Community College provides the teacher and materials. SFCC has \$60,000 invested in our literacy center. We have received a \$78,000 grant from the state for the Putting Families First program. The Division of Family Services has dedicated a caseworker two days per week for an investment to the program of \$12,000. Workforce Investment Board provides Workplace Readiness classes for an in-kind donation worth \$16,718. Other in-kind donations for this program total over \$34,000. With this program we are able to leverage funds at \$23.53 for every Caring Communities dollar received.

Noteworthy

The Pettis County Division of Family Services caseworkers inform all families receiving public assistance, regardless of what type of assistance, of the opportunity to participate in the Putting Families First program.

Our local DFS office has appointed a dedicated caseworker to this program. Traditionally, this caseworker works in the PFF office at the Partnership on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The caseworker and the family explore the advantages of being involved in Putting Families First. As the community became more aware of the needs of families that are trying to transition from public assistance, donations began trickling in. Now the program is even receiving donated cars to help families with reliable transportations so that they can maintain their employment. Eight cars have been received to date.

Barriers

The DFS caseworker assigned to the Putting Families First program has worked in the Partnership office two days per week since the inception of the program in November 1999. The lack of funding for the current fiscal year leaves the local DFS office without enough staff coverage so the Putting Families First caseworker will only be in the Partnership office one day per week at least through March of 2002.

Once transportation was identified as a barrier to employment a committee went to work on implementing a fixed route bus system. Finding enough funds to keep this public transportation running has been difficult. The system is financed through a 50/50 community match grant with MODOT. The community match came from business and organization donations, advertising on the bus and from a venture grant to begin the operation from the Sedalia/Pettis County United Way.

Since that time, CTP has returned to the United Way requesting agency status, which would give CTP community assistance with funding the bus system. The overwhelming response from the local United Way has been that the City of Sedalia should be supporting the system, not the United Way. The city was approached about the additional dollars needed to keep the bus system operating and turned down CTP's request for funding. The city says the tax dollars they receive are for infrastructure such as streets, drainage systems, sanitary sewer pipes and treatment plants.

CTP is still looking for approximately \$10,000 additional dollars each year to keep the much needed bus route running.

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Pettis County Caring Communities Partnership

February 15, 2002

Pettis County Community Partnership was established in 1995 as a 501(c)3 non-profit agency and is a strong community collaborative of over 500 private businesses, educators, private, and public agencies, and caring individuals. Through true partnership efforts, PCCP strives to improve the quality of life for all residents, to eliminate gaps and duplications in service, mobilize resources and combine dollars to better help families, align agencies, and forge alliances so that all work better together.

Pettis County, located in Central Missouri, has a population of 39,403, with approximately 20,000 in Sedalia, the county seat. From 1990 to 2000 the Hispanic population has increased 469.8%; and we know that many Hispanics were missed in the 2000 Census count. The Hispanic population in the county now outnumbers the African American population, which has only seen a 3% increase during the same period. Our county also welcomes the arrival of new residents from Russia and the Ukraine, an estimate of that population number is 600.

Apart from Sedalia, which has a population of 20,339, there are five smaller communities within Pettis County. Each of these communities was included in our planning process by representation on our task forces. These communities are Green Ridge, population 445; Houstonia, population 275; Hughesville, population 174; LaMonte, population 1064; and Smithton, population 510, and the unincorporated village of Dresden.

OUR VISION

The Pettis County Community Partnership seeks to provide a safe and caring community which blends and integrates its resources in developing opportunities for children and families to assist them in reaching their highest potential in the pursuit of happy, healthy, and productive lives. The Pettis County Community Partnership shall serve Pettis County, Missouri.

OUR MISSION

The Pettis County Community Partnership has a mission centering on improving the quality of life for the citizens of Pettis County. The goals include matching community assets with community needs, acting as catalyst for community action, and being a clearing house for information availability and exchange.

PCCP has come a long way from three people sitting together around a table to discuss the possibility of forming a community collaborative in 1995...conducting a needs assessment survey in the spring of 1996...hiring the first full time employee in October of 1996...beginning the program Faith In Action in 1997...and hiring two Caring Communities site coordinators in 1998 to having twelve staff and numerous outreach endeavors by 2002.

Each year the Chamber of Commerce presents their Community Progress Award to an entity that has made a significant contribution to community betterment. Pettis County Community



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Partnership was honored to be the recipient of the Community Progress Award presented in March of 2001. Our staff members work tirelessly throughout the year to facilitate collaboration and mobilize community members into action which addresses community issues and concerns...but it would not be possible without so many committed people willing to give generously of themselves. Our staff along with 853 volunteers gave over 81,000 hours of service and impacted thousands of lives in one year alone. Now, multiply that as the years go on...

Outreach efforts through PCCP include Caring Communities, Educare, Faith in Action, Family Literacy Center, Global Village, La Hora Hispana, Latinos Unidos, Multicultural Services, Putting Families First, RSVP—Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, West Central MO Multicultural Forum, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition, Community Connection, Make A Difference Day, Martin Luther King Day, securing the volunteer staffing of the Community Free Clinic and publishing of a bilingual (Spanish/English) community resource directory.

Additionally, PCCP brought together the group that focuses on public transportation and is now known as the Community Transportation Partnership, Inc, which initiated a taxi service (now privately owned) and currently oversees operation of "The Bus". Currently four staff members are actively involved in collaboration efforts to establish a transitional housing unit in Pettis County. This group known as PROP (Putting Roofs Over People) recently approached PCCP about becoming part of the Partnership. The new group "ABC" (Activity Builders for Children) a collaborative group established to fund extra curricular activities for foster children has also asked to be part of PCCP. We are recognized in the community as an "incubation" facility for grassroots collaborations that want to focus on making life better for people.

PCCP has established a wonderful relationship with Central Missouri State University and the University of Missouri Columbia campus. On more than one occasion we have been approached about allowing students to do internships or "observation hours" with us. Last summer CMSU, through their extended campus program, held the first course of its kind at PCCP on Hispanic Cultural Understanding & Elementary Spanish. The course focused on connecting language with the daily lives of Latinos in this area.

We are proud of all that we have accomplished in such a short period of time and we would like to show-off our Partnership office to you sometime when you are in our area.

Cordially,

Cheri Heeren
Executive Director

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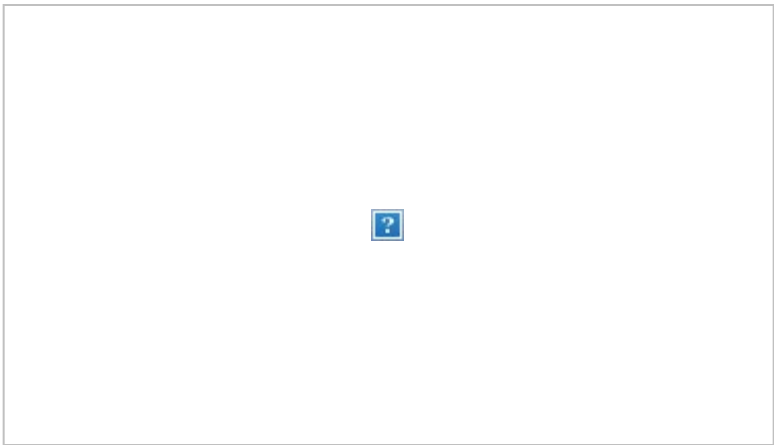
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Phelps County Phelps County Community Partnership

Core Result: Children and Families Healthy Benchmark: Teen Pregnancy Rate

February 2002



Objective

To decrease the teen pregnancy rate in Phelps County to a five-year average (2000-2005) that is below 50 births per 1000 girls, ages 15 to 19.

Strategies

The Partnership established a Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy Action Team to raise awareness of the problem of teen pregnancy in the community and to develop strategies to address this issue. The "Team" includes representatives from MMP, the County Health Department, the local media, schoolteachers, school board members, the University Extension, Prevention Consultants of Missouri, Planned Parenthood, and Caring Communities.

An additional strategy includes a MMP (mentoring program) that works with teen parents to promote successful parenting and life skills.

Successes

As of December 31st, 50 youth participating in Youth Mentoring Programs either had a child or were expecting, however only two had a second pregnancy (4% repeat teen pregnancy rate vs. 21% state rate for 2000).

Another Success

A PSA campaign was initiated on six area radio stations asking parents to "talk to their children.... raise awareness now instead of grandchildren later." Because of relationships developed with local media through the Action Team, all ads were FREE!!

Challenges

The Action Team is trying to implement a survey in schools for statistical information on the sexual activity of youth in the community. Our next challenge is to adopt a common survey to be



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used by all school districts in the county.

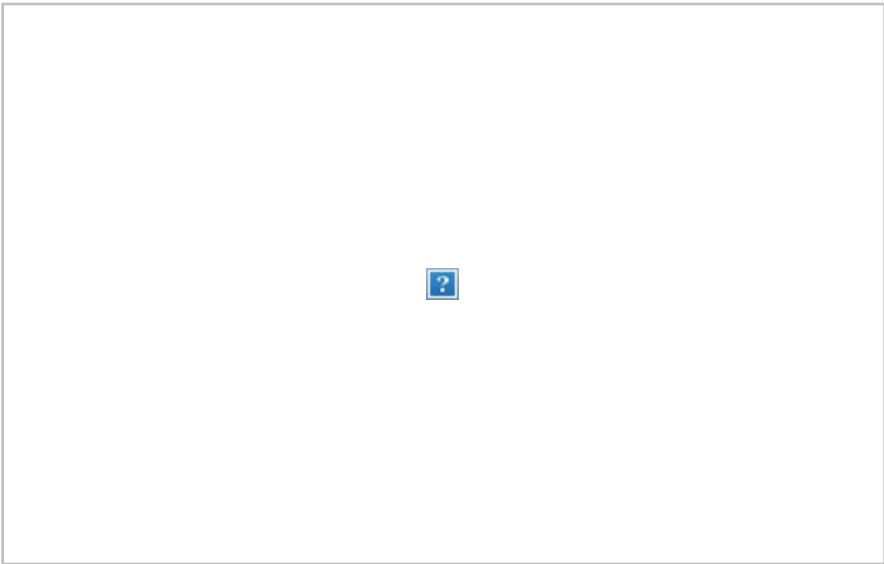
Observations

We have discovered that a number of youth do not live at home. Many of them live with friends, moving throughout the week; some even live in vehicles. Without secure homes these youth often participate in risky behaviors; drug and alcohol use, unprotected sex. etc.

Research indicates that only 33% of adolescent parents complete high school. Seventy-four percent of MMP participants have completed high school, GED, and are continuing education.

Results

The 2001 Kids Count Report showed the teen pregnancy rate for Phelps County dropped 16% from the 2000 report. The rate was below 50 births per 1000 for the first time since before 1994.



Funding/Return on Investment

Caring Community dollars were used to facilitate the Action Team’s agenda and for administrative support for MMP. The awareness campaigns were funded through in-kind donations from the media.

For every dollar of Caring Communities funding, the Phelps County Community Partnership was able to leverage \$11.82 of additional funding from other sources.

Cost Savings

According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy the United States has the highest rate of teen pregnancy and births in the western industrialized world. Teen pregnancy cost the United States at least \$7 billion annually. Nearly four in 10 young women become pregnant at least once before they reach the age of 20—nearly one million a year. Eight in ten of these pregnancies are unintended and 79 percent are to unmarried teens.

www.teenpregnancy.org

Barriers/Road Blocks

The Action Team believes that community education and awareness are key components to mobilizing community action. This issue is a community concern and not just an issue for individual families or organizations.

An additional barrier is lack of services for youth who are 17 years old. Seventeen year olds are not recognized as old enough to be on their own, but are too old to be part of assistance programs for younger youth including assistance from DFS.

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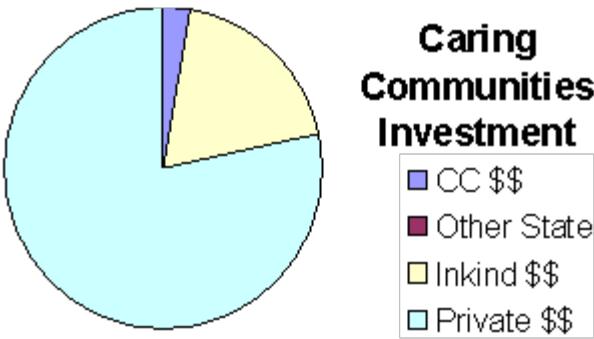
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Phelps County Phelps County Community Partnership

Core Result: Children and Families Safe Benchmark: Rate of Child Abuse/Neglect

February 2002



Objective

Reduce and/or maintain the rate of substantiated child abuse/neglect reports in Phelps County to a rate of 7 cases per 1,000 by 2004.

Strategies/Successes

The Phelps County Community Partnership has taken an active role in Phelps County to reduce the rate of child abuse/neglect. In the early 1990's, PCCAN (Phelps County Child Abuse Action Network) was developed to raise awareness and advocate change in the county.

In 2001, the Safe Action Team was developed by the Partnership to increase the number of representatives working to increase child safety. The two organizations joined forces in 2002 to increase effectiveness and includes representatives from Division of Family Services, the Juvenile office, the Department of Health, the Family Crisis Center, Prevent Child Abuse Missouri, local police departments, private therapists, schools, the hospital, the media, private business and concerned citizens.

Activities and events included:

“Take a Stand” Against Child Abuse—During this two-day annual event, children in the area are encouraged to set up a lemonade stand and sell a shaved ice lemonade treat that is provided by a local bank. All proceeds are given to PCCAN for future campaigns to fight child abuse/neglect. Participants who “take a stand” receive t-shirts, chances to win prizes for the highest sales, and for the best-decorated stand. During two days of sales in 2001, \$15,000 was raised.

Anti-Bullying Program — Through a grant from Prevent Child Abuse Missouri, the Rolla Public Schools have implemented a program to educate students, teachers, and administrators on what constitutes bullying, and then how to prevent it. Administration and teachers attended a training program and fifty-two classrooms received training.

“The Answer Is One” Awareness Campaign — How many children need to be abused in



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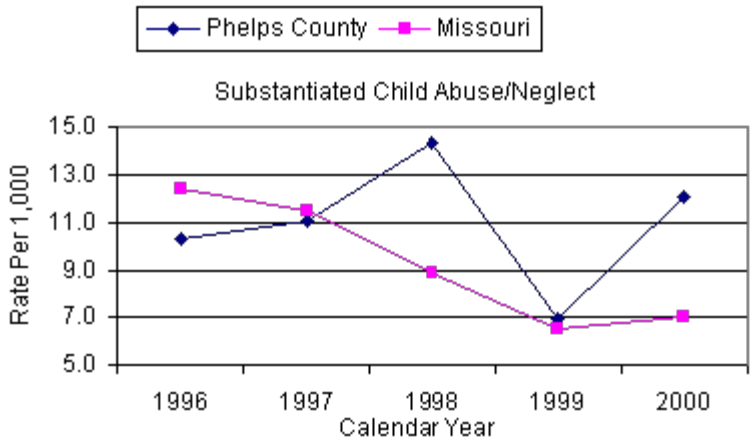
Phelps County before you should be concerned? The answer is one. A series of public service announcements have been produced to raise awareness about the problem of child abuse. The announcements have been aired on six area radio stations covering ten south central Missouri counties. Through a partnership with the local stations, all announcements have been aired and produced free of charge.

Home Based Training Institute — The Phelps County Community Partnership hosted a FREE, two-day training institute conducted by Prevent Child Abuse Missouri. The training was developed for professionals that visit the home of clients. Topics included childhood sexual abuse, domestic violence, mental illness and the dysfunctional family, personal safety of the worker, issues regarding mandated reporting and use of the state hotline, teaching financial planning for at-risk families, and teaching parenting skills.

Foster Parent Recruitment Campaign — On January 1, 2002, there were no openings in foster homes in Phelps County or in the six surrounding counties. In response, a series of public service announcements have been produced to raise awareness of the shortage of foster homes. The announcements have been aired on six area radio stations covering ten south central Missouri counties. Through a partnership with the local stations, all announcements have been produced and aired free of charge. Local DFS officials were very pleased with the response and in fact reported twenty-eight families signed up for the first class after the campaign began.

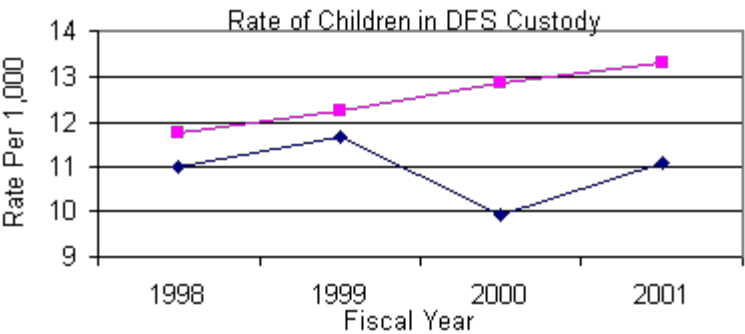
Results

Phelps County has experienced a widely varied rate of substantiated child abuse cases in the past few years. It is suspected that some of the variation is due to awareness campaigns conducted by the action team. During awareness campaigns, the hot line call rate increases and subsequently so does the rate of substantiated child abuse/neglect cases. These cases may have previously gone undetected without the participation of a community that is actively involved in the safety of its children.



Observations/Concerns

While the rate of substantiated cases has been varied so has the rate of children in DFS custody. This may be caused by a number of factors to include the availability of foster homes. DFS may determine a possible need to remove children from a home but are hindered in their decision by the lack of foster homes.



Funding/Return on Investment

For every dollar of Caring Community funds spent, the Phelps County Community Partnership has been able to leverage an additional \$33.50 through in- kind and private donations. This is a very conservative estimate and excludes hours of volunteer time.

Future Plans

The Board of Directors of the Partnership has made a commitment to continue the awareness campaigns. Future campaigns will be expanded to recruit foster families from a larger portion of south central Missouri. The Safe Action Team and PCCAN will continue to work together and have established plans to increase their scope or work and impact of projects.

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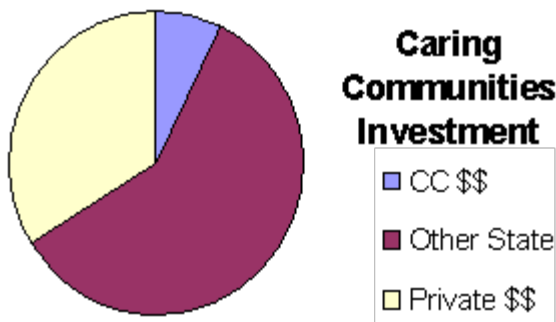
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Phelps County Phelps County Community Partnership Community Engagement Report February 2002



THE PHELPS COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP COORDINATES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ST. JAMES CARING CENTER

The Phelps County Community Partnership has provided coordination and support for the development of the St. James Caring Center. The St. James Caring Center supplies numerous community services in one convenient location. The Center was established through the work of the St. James Ministerial Alliance and the St. James Caring Communities Coordinator.

A Board of Directors was established, non-profit status was granted, funds raised, a building secured and now the St. James Caring Center operates independently of the Partnership. The Phelps County Community Partnership supports the Center by employing a Community Coordinator who also serves as Director for the Caring Center.

The Phelps County Community Partnership received a grant from the Corporation for National Service that allowed two Americorps/VISTA members to be assigned to the St. James Caring Center. One VISTA serves as the coordinator of the Caring Center. This position works directly with families-in-need through client intake and volunteer coordination of the emergency food pantry. She also serves as the liaison between the community and the Caring Center Board of Directors.

The second member serves as Volunteer Recruiter and Development Coordinator of the thrift store and as Coordinator for a Reading Buddy Program conducted at the elementary school. Both members are under the direction of the Caring Center Director who is an employee of the Partnership.

SENATOR STEELMAN ANNOUNCES CARING CENTER TO RECEIVE \$322,350 IN TAX CREDITS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

During the 2001 fiscal year, State Senator Sarah Steelman announced that \$322,350 in state tax credits was granted through the state Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) to benefit the St. James Caring Center. The tax credits were used as leverage to secure donations from outside sources.



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The total benefit to the Caring Center through the NAP and additional private funds is over \$460,000. These funds allowed the Caring Center to purchase and renovate an abandoned 11,000 square foot grocery store located in downtown St. James.

ST. JAMES CARING CENTER HOLDS GRAND OPENING

In September of 2001, the St. James Caring Center held the grand opening of their new facility. The 11,000 square foot building houses a thrift store, an emergency food pantry, a USDA Commodity Food Distribution Center, an alternative school, a computer lab, and office space for local social service agencies to assist area families.

The last of the tax credits were sold in January of 2002 and will allow the final stage of renovations to take place in the spring of 2002. Improvements will include expansion of the thrift store, additional classroom space to host GED courses, and additional office space for local social service agency partners.

THE PARTNERSHIP HAS LEVERAGED OVER \$13.00 FOR EVERY CARING COMMUNITY DOLLAR INVESTED

The largest portion of funding for the St. James Caring Center came from the use of tax credits. For every dollar of Caring Community funds spent, the Phelps County Community Partnership has been able to leverage an additional \$13.00 through in-kind and cash donations. This is a very conservative estimate and excludes the hundreds of hours of volunteer time and thousands of dollars in goods sold in the thrift store.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED AND PARTNERSHIPS ESTABLISHED

The St. James Caring Center is able to provide some assistance for emergency utilities, lodging, medical, and transportation. As the USDA commodities distribution site the Caring Center serves more than 100 families per month. In December 2001, 195 families were assisted with commodities. During 2001 402 cash assistance services and 1740 food services were provided. Requests for assistance continue to rise in 2002.

Partnerships with the Caring Center include the St. James Ministerial Alliance, the City of St. James, St. James Public Schools, the Sheriff's Department, the James Foundation, Prudential Insurance, the Health Department, Phelps County Regional Medical Center, the St. James Chamber of Commerce, the local Wal-Mart Distribution Center, and numerous community volunteers and donors.

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Phelps County Community Partnership

THE MISSION OF PHELPS COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Phelps County Community Partnership (The Partnership) is a Caring Communities initiative that became an incorporated nonprofit organization in 1997. The Partnership mission is to promote awareness of community issues, facilitate systems reform, and work together with citizens and organizations to enhance or develop community resources to achieve better results for children, families and communities.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PARTNERSHIP IN PHELPS COUNTY

In a February 2002 survey of community agencies, organizations, and individuals:

- 92% reported that the Phelps County Community Partnership plays an important role in the community.
- 92% agreed that the Partnership helped them accomplish their goals.
- 75% reported that the Partnership does not duplicate services currently available in the community.
- 75% reported that the Partnership makes their life/work easier.

WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE PARTNERSHIP?

The Partnership defines its scope of services as the broad and all-inclusive community made up of all people living in Phelps County, including the geographic areas encompassed by the four Phelps County school districts: Phelps County R-III (Edgar Springs), Newburg, Rolla, and St. James. Phelps County is a rural community of 39,825 people who reside within its 673 square miles situated in South Central Missouri, at the northern entrance of the Ozark Mountains.

The Partnership Board of Directors believes that, in order to be effective in implementing Caring Communities, every citizen of Phelps County needs to be considered in planning and implementing services. Instead of focusing on a single school or school district, The Partnership Board decided that systems reform would work only when all community members participate. This change in focus means that Caring Communities dollars would not be used to supply direct services. Services provided by the Partnership would use other state, federal, foundation, and community dollars to strengthen existing services and coordinate the identification and development of new services.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

The goal of The Partnership's systems reform initiative is to implement a process for planning, evaluating, and assessing needs that uses strategies consistent with current systems reform thinking that will lead to community awareness, engagement, ownership and action.

The Phelps County Community Partnership Board of Directors decided that to effectively make positive results possible for the community it would be necessary to narrow our focus. The Planning Committee of the Board examined county data and decided to ask focus groups in each community – including Edgar Springs, Newburg, Rolla, and St. James – to also review the data and decide what were the factors they were most concerned about in their community.

The community groups selected one benchmark on which to focus on based on available data, comments, and collective knowledge of the community members involved in each focus group. The benchmarks chosen by the community include:

- 1) Births to Teens
- 2) Child Abuse and Neglect
- 3) Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse



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4) Child Poverty

Countywide action teams have been developed to address these benchmarks. Goals and objectives to measure progress have been established.

DOLLARS LEVERAGED BY CARING COMMUNITIES DOLLARS

Every Caring Communities dollar leveraged \$5.58 for Phelps County. The total expenditure of Caring Communities dollars in Phelps County is \$257 K – leveraged an additional \$1.4 M in in-kind and other grant dollars.

PHELPS COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Donna Adam, Director, Rolla Regional Center
- Mike Brooks, Principal, Newburg High School
- John Butz, City Administrator, Rolla
- Richard Cravens, District Administrator, Probation and Parole
- David Duncan, Director, Pathways Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
- Barbara Durnin, County Resource Specialist
- Larry E. Ewing, Superintendent, Rolla Public Schools
- Jim Fleming, Plant Manager, Tacony Manufacturing
- Dave Menge, Christian Church, St. James
- Helen McFarland, Pastor, St. James United Methodist Church
- Kay McMurtrey, Superintendent, Phelps County R-III School
- David Murphy, Director, Division of Family Services
- Roger Nash, Superintendent, Newburg Public Schools
- Patricia Rogers, Executive Director, Division of Workforce Development
- David Ross, Chief Executive Officer, Phelps County Regional Medical Center
- Mary Sheffield, Associate Circuit Judge
- Dan Spore, Plant Manager, Briggs and Stratton Corporation
- Joe Swearengen, Captain, Missouri State Highway Troop I
- W. H. Thomas, Jr., Thomas, Birdsong, and Mills, PC
- Lonnie Thompson, Superintendent, St. James Public Schools
- Josephine P. Waltman, Director, Phelps County Health Department
- Robert Wright, Supervisor, Workforce Development

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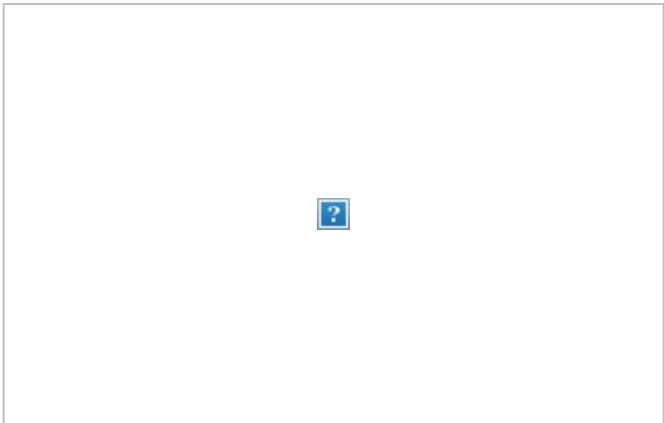
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Randolph County Caring Communities Partnership

Randolph County Caring Communities Partnership

Community Engagement Report Achieving Core Results Together In Our Neighborhoods

February 2002



Partners in ACTION ... From its beginnings the Partnership has had a rich history of collaboration and cooperation among agencies and individuals in Randolph County. The Local Resource/Advisory Team is 25 members strong with several agencies lending secretarial support and personnel to the partnership work. There are 5 neighborhood site councils, a YMCA task force, the Care and Share committee and volunteers, 6 countywide action teams and other small committees that are issue driven. Over 350 individuals representing businesses, civic organizations, churches, schools, social agencies, banks, youth, parents and other community members are participating in Partnership activities.

Teams in ACTION ... Results Based Planning has led to the development of 6 countywide action teams to address the most pressing issues as identified by the local communities. Literacy, Youth Development, Child Safety, Faith in Action, Substance Abuse and a Funding team have been established. Agency representatives and community members work together on these teams to form a plan to meet the needs of children and families in Randolph County.

Success in ACTION ...

The Magic City Express, a public transportation system for the city of Moberly started providing services in September of 2000. This dispatched, curb-to-curb, handicapped accessible service runs from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. To date: an average of 80 different individuals use the service each month, an average of 740 one-way rides are given each month, 43% of the rides are taking people back and forth to work and 30% of the rides are for medical purposes.

The Partnership facilitated a countywide taskforce to address the need identified by several



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communities in the county to start a youth center. After 6 months of facilitation, local community members developed the [Randolph Area YMCA Taskforce](#), conducted a feasibility study and are currently in a YMCA Founder's Campaign to raise the initial \$250,000. Over 100 individuals are involved in the YMCA project.

The Partnership identified the need to reduce duplication of assistance given to families during the holidays. The Care and Share committee convened in August of 2001 and the first [Holiday Care and Share](#) was held in December of that year. Prior to the Care and Share approximately 125 families with 250 children received services at Christmas. In 2001, 225 families with 440 children were served and in 2002 330 families with 625 children were served. Each family received new toys, boxes of non-perishable food items, new and used coats, a \$10 food certificate for area grocery stores, stocking stuffers, new books and used toys.

Faith in ACTION ...

From its beginnings the Partnership identified the valuable resources available in local faith communities. A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant and a state grant have been obtained to engage churches in volunteer and mentoring activities.

Investment in ACTION ...

In the past two years with \$50,000 in Caring Communities flexible dollars, the Partnership leveraged nearly \$850,000.

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Randolph County Caring Communities Partnership

Randolph County Caring Communities Partnership

February 15, 2002

The Randolph County Caring Communities Partnership (RCCCP) was recognized in January of 2000 as a Caring Communities Partnership. Located in rural, mid Missouri, Randolph County has a population of 25,000, includes 8 different communities and 5 school districts. The RCCCP consists of five neighborhood site councils (one in each of the five school districts), a 12 member Board of Directors, a 43 member Local Resource/Advisory Team, one executive coordinator and several different needs based committees. Together, there are over 350 individuals engaged in promoting the well being of children and families in Randolph County.

The neighborhood site councils meet monthly and provide the local input that drives and sustains our initiative. The Local Resource/Advisory Team consists of representatives from area service agencies, businesses, churches and the 8 Missouri state agencies partnering in the initiative. The role of this team is to carry out supporting functions for the site councils. The Board of Directors functions as the decision making body and is comprised of local citizens representing the 5 neighborhoods/school districts in Randolph County.

The mission and vision of the RCCCP is that children have strong families, live in communities where parents are working, children are succeeding in school, and growing up healthy, safe and prepared to enter productive adulthood. The purpose of this organization is to establish a structure that allows for the involvement of all segments of the community in decision-making that will achieve the six core results of Caring Communities. The combined efforts of this partnership will result in:

- Building consensus and working toward common goals
- Effective use of resources
- Identification of gaps in services
- Facilitating creative development of strategies utilizing existing resources and talents in the community
- Enhanced leadership and decision-making opportunities for neighborhood residents

Over a 12-month period, the Board, Local Resource/Advisory Team and community members were introduced to results-based planning. This process, guided by the mission and vision of the RCCCP resulted in the creation of 5 countywide action teams. The action teams included members from the RCCCP who share an interest in specific issues. The action teams were formed to address child safety, literacy, teen pregnancy, youth substance abuse and involving faith communities. A sixth action team, a funding team, was created to support the work of the action teams and the RCCCP as a whole.

The Local Resource/Advisory Team of Randolph County has played a large role in the success of the partnership. Team members lend secretarial support, chair countywide action teams, help write grants and support all of the work of the partnership. The Randolph County Health Department offers the aid of one of their employees to work one day a week with partnership activities. They also assist with the Magic City Express transportation system, which was established through partnership facilitation, by allowing their support staff to serve as



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dispatchers.

It has been a challenge to educate community members and agencies in the results-based planning process. The partnership is still young and strives to overcome the problems of players coming to the table with their own agenda and control issues.

In spite of these issues, the RCCCP has been very successful in increasing collaborative efforts in the county. New partners are brought to the table on a monthly basis as new committees and sub-committees are established. The partnership has been successful in recruiting youth as members of site councils and action teams. Local financial support for different strategies is also evolving. The 2001 Missouri KIDS Count ranked Randolph County at 86. This is the first time in several years that our ranking has been below 100.

As we continue to use result-based planning, increase collaboration and local governance, the Randolph County Caring Communities Partnership will continue to see success.

Sincerely,

Tammy Gibson
Partnership Executive Coordinator

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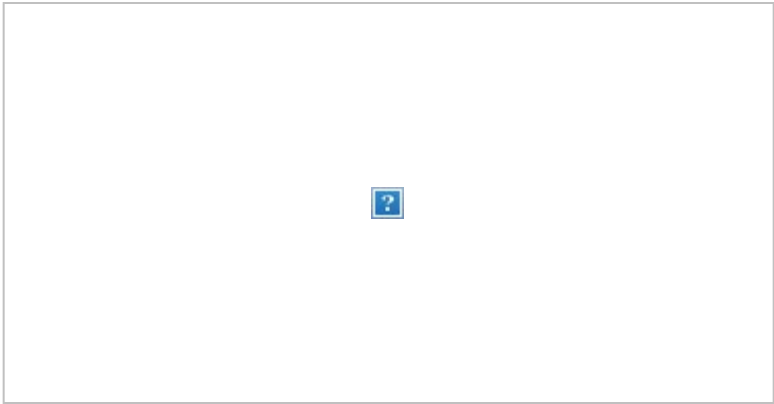
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Ripley County Caring Communities Partnership Community Engagement Report February 2002



Major Collaborative Efforts in Ripley County

These collaborative efforts have resulted from the commitment of several organizations and community members to achieve a common goal of promoting and protecting the well being of citizens in Ripley County.

Partnership Leveraged Funds FY-2002

Caring Communities Flexible Funds	\$136,640.00
Other State	\$182,405.00
Other Federal	\$250,000.00
In Kind Donations	\$ 68,200.00
Local Investment	\$ 10,000.00
Total	\$647,245.00

The Partnership has leveraged \$4.74 for every Caring Community dollar we are spending in FY-2002.

The Ripley County Caring Community Partnership has:

- Engaged business and civic leaders, the faith community, and the local community to develop a Family Resource Center. This Center will be the hub for services to help people in need return to self-sufficiency. This Center will also include a 2,000 square foot basement homeless shelter with four units to assist families in crisis situations. To accomplish this the Partnership leveraged funds as follows:

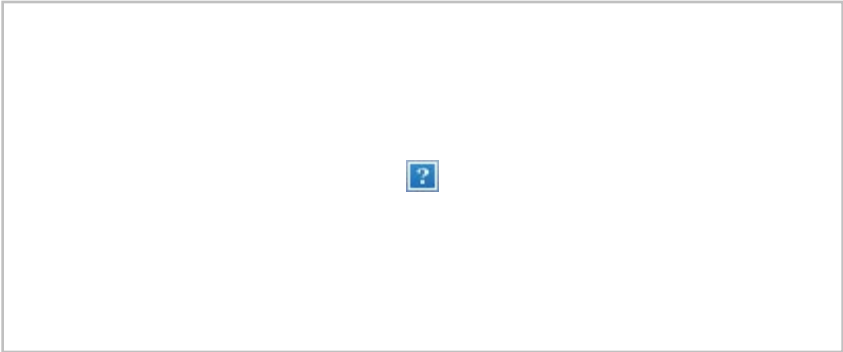
Community Development Block Grant	\$250,000.00
Federal Home Loan Grant	66,000.00
USDA-Rural Development Grant	8,000.00



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Local Fund Raising Efforts	35,000.00
Local Labor Valued at	30,000.00
Staff Time of RCCCP	15,000.00
Totals	\$404,000.00



- Coordinated committees and data compilation leading to the completion of the Missouri Community Assessment Process (MOCAP) resulting in the first community plan since 1972. This plan identified action steps that the county wants to accomplish over the next 3-5 years. Because of this planning process the county was able to reach good consensus on projects to be done.
- Led the effort to develop nine action steps for the “Champion Community” plan required as part of the designation of our county by USDA-Rural Development.
- Assisted a local developer respond to a Department of Economic Development (DED) Request For Proposal (RFP) to develop low-income housing in Ripley County. Jointly, we were able to prepare the proposal in less than 15 days. It normally takes at least 30 days. This joint effort resulted in the developer obtaining a DED grant of \$250,000 of seed money to build a 16-unit low-income housing project adjacent to the Family Resource Center. This grant was for the maximum amount allowed under the RFP.
- Wrote the plan for an Alternative School at the Naylor School. This plan was approved and resulted in a Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) 30 % tax credit for a bank that donated a building to the school that is now used for the local Head Start program. The donated building was completely renovated to meet current standards and now houses 20 Head Start children. The former Head Start building now houses the Naylor Alternative School.
- Helped identify issues related to the passage of a bond to fund the addition to the local county library.
- Obtained early childhood grants that allowed the Ripley County Partnership to provide training and resources to local child-care providers to enable them to become licensed providers. Licensed capacity has increased from 50 to 265 slots between 1997 and 2001. This work is continuing in 2002 as our county needs a licensed capacity of 750 slots in order to meet the need for quality child care. Quality child-care results in a child more ready to enter school—one of our core results that we earnestly desire to meet.
- Obtained a one-time funding Early Childhood Services Grant for \$52,830.00 that will provide 20 additional licensed infant daycare slots in Ripley County. The one-time funding for \$23,850.00 that will also provide incentive gifts for parents to engage in the PAT (Parents As Teachers) program. The family has to be at-risk of having their children removed from the home or living below the 185% poverty level to qualify for these incentives. This will be collaboration among DFS, the Ripley County School Districts, the Health Department, etc. to recruit these individuals.

- Helped research funding sources for the Ripley County Commissioners to find funds to rehabilitate a donated building into a Justice Center. This Center would house the staff of the county sheriff and the juvenile officer. The juvenile officer is presently in leased space and the sheriff and staff are presently housed in the basement of the courthouse. This project will enable a more centralized location providing better public service to the community and communication between law enforcement entities.
- Helped to identify the issues related to the passage of a lodging tax in the April 2002 Doniphan Municipal Election.
- Facilitated meetings among Ripley County fire chiefs to improve county-wide fire protection capabilities which can lead to families safer in their homes, better fire department ratings, better protection capabilities that leads to reduced insurance premiums for property owners.
- Additional collaborative efforts have resulted in the start of an Alternative School in the Doniphan Schools, a local food bank, a county wide Salvation Army unit, a county wide Heart Health Coalition, and a county wide Red Cross unit.

Improvements in the County

Ripley County has improved based on the Kids Count 2001 ranking from 107 to 63 out of 114 counties in Missouri. This ranking is based on 10 outcome measures; Ripley County has improved in nine of these rankings over the previous year.

Improved Indicators	Base Year 1996	Current Year 2000
Adult unemployment rate	8.4%	5.64%
High School graduation rate	74.3%	82.6%
Licensed child care capacity slots	50	265
Children receiving AFDC/TANF	18.5%	8.6%
Children receiving food stamps	57.2%	44.5%
Public clinic immunization rate	81.4%	91.7%
Annual high school dropouts	8.6%	2.9%
Birth to teens 15-19/1,000 females	84.4	63.4
Infant mortality rates	11.7%	6.0%
Low birthweight infants	8.5	7.9

Areas Needing Improvement

Child abuse and neglect per 1,000 has increased from 11.4 in 1996 to 58.5 in 2000. Economic development is always vital. The per capita personal income in Ripley County was only \$14,199.00 during 1998, compared to \$25,150.00 for the state.

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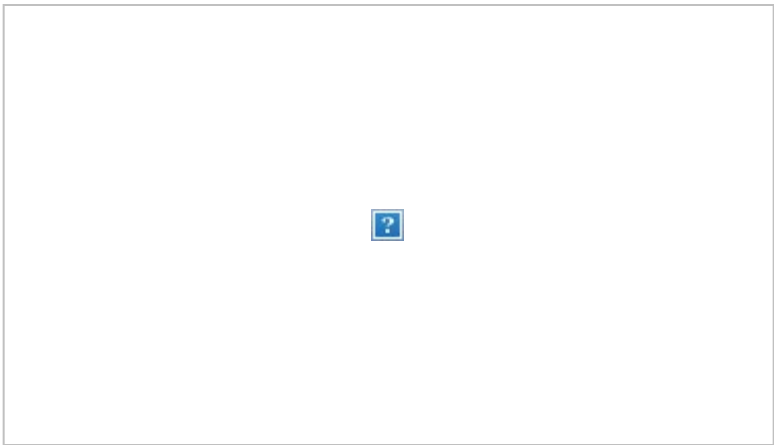
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Ripley County Caring Communities Partnership

Core Result: Children succeeding in school
Benchmark: Persistence to high school graduation
(by age 18)

February 2002



Objective:

Ripley County will increase the high school graduation rates for all Ripley County School Districts from 82.6% in 2001 to 85% by 2004.

Strategies:

Increasing high school graduation in Ripley County is a multifaceted issue. Adolescents who graduate are more likely to attend college or enter the workforce and become productive adults. There are many reasons why students fail in school or drop out of school. A lack of career goals, teen pregnancy, falling behind during the early school years, behavioral problems, substance abuse, and poor early development are just a few.

By working closely with the schools and others involved in these adolescent's lives, the Ripley County Caring Community Partnership hopes to influence persistence to graduation. We have implemented or supported several different programs and projects that help kids successfully remain in school until graduation. Missouri Mentoring Partnership (MMP) (implemented in 1999) The MMP offers two components for at-risk youth.

1. The work-site component offers youth an opportunity for job skills training and employment with mentor support; thereby assisting them to succeed as contributing adults in their community. The mentor emphasizes the importance of sustaining and maintaining a job as well as completing an educational program. The youth can earn a high school diploma through the local school or their GED through the local vocational school. The mentor also discusses the importance of continuing education either through a Community College, Trade School or University.
2. The Ripley County Mentoring Moms Program is contracted through the Ripley County Public Health Department which is dedicated to supporting, empowering and educating pregnant and



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c/o CEU
3418 Knipp Drive
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65201
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parenting adolescents by providing them with a community based mentor that will encourage them to succeed in parenting and stay in school until graduation. The parenting teens in the program assume responsibility to help other youth see some of the hardships that accompany a teen parent. The teen parents speak to public school students in their classroom about the consequences of having sex. This is usually done just prior to a major event such as Homecoming and Prom.

The Ripley County Caring Community Partnership partners with elementary schools in Ripley County to increase persistence to graduation:

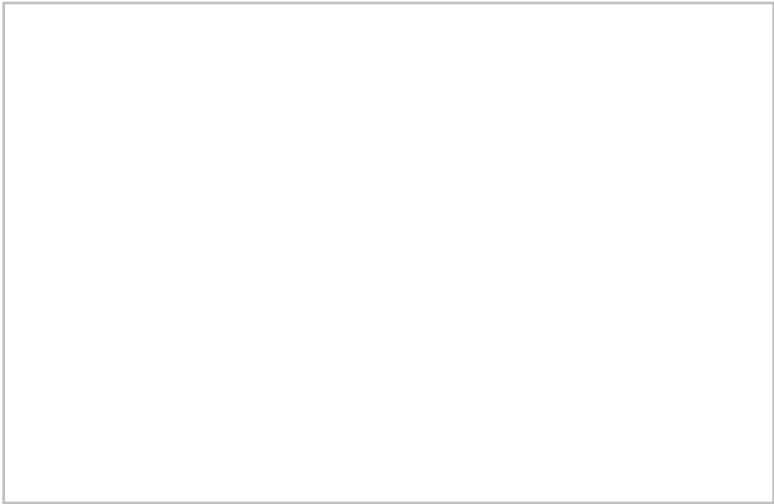
- Initiated the Hand in Hand Mentoring Program that pairs community volunteers with at-risk students to encourage them to stay in school. In coordination with C-2000 grant funding, the mentoring program has now been implemented in all four school districts.
- Developed the Eagles Nest after school care program in the Naylor R-II School District. This program will allow for care for students that have no place to go after school, offers tutoring, and educational activities.
- Implemented the (POPS) Power of Positive Student programs in K-5th grade to promote character education. This program is now being carried out by the elementary school counselors.
- The partnership has written an Early Childhood Services Grant to increase the number of licensed daycare slots in Ripley County. This grant also provides daycare providers with education and CDA (Child Development Associate) Certification to encourage good early development that will ensure that young children are ready to enter school. An additional grant was written to provide 20 additional licensed infants daycare slots (birth to age 3 years) in Ripley County.

Ripley County Schools are:

- Providing PAT (Parents As Teachers) program coordinators. The Partnership has received an Outreach grant that provides extra incentives to reach parents that are at-risk of having the children removed from the home or are below the 185% poverty level.
- Providing school-to-work opportunities to at-risk students through the Vocational School.
- Providing summer school for students who lose credits or need to catch up on credits or gaps in education.
- Working with the Alternative Program that allows the students an alternative route so they can stay in school.
- Working with various programs that will target earlier intervention with at-risk students such as: after school tutoring with character education, drug and violence prevention activities, cross age tutoring, Talent Search, extended computer lab, and remediation for high school students.

Results:

Ripley County Rates that Effect Persistence to High School Graduation

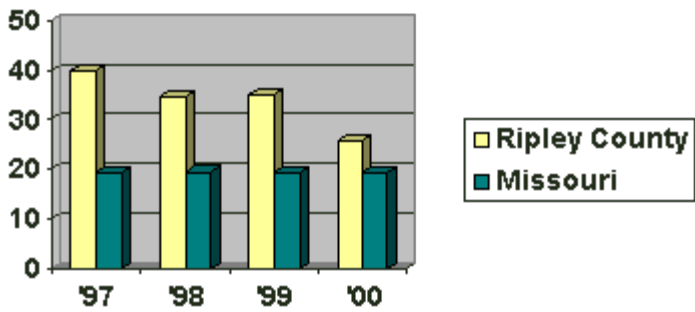


The high school graduation rates have steadily rose in the last couple of years. In 1998, the rate was 68%, 79.2% in 1999 and 82.6% in the year 2000.



The birth to teens ages 15-19 per 1,000 have decreased from 82.7 per 1,000 in 1997 to 63.4 per 1,000 in 2000.

Births to Mothers With Under 12 Years Education (per 1,000)



The birth to mothers with under 12 years of education per 1,000 have decreased from 40.1 per 1,000 in 1997 to 25.6 per 1,000 in the year 2000.

Funding/Return on Investment

Caring Communities	\$0.00
Other State (DSS)	\$52,470.00
Other Federal	\$0.00
In Kind	\$60,000.00

Noteworthy

“All of the youth have benefited greatly from the monthly meetings where someone showed an interest in them and they could voice their feelings—I feel two of our youth have continued in school and worked harder because of this program and the personal contact and support they have received.” – Couch High School Counselor. This strategy has benefited students in other surrounding counties outside Ripley County.

Barriers/Road Blocks

Implementing the programs on a bare bones budget has hindered the effectiveness and the opportunity to assist the youth to its full capacity. We hope to find funds in the future to provide money for transportation, career clothing, scholarship that supplemented their wages, etc.

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Ripley County Caring Communities Partnership

Core Result: Children and Families Healthy Benchmark: School attendance

February 2002



Objective:

To decrease the number of school absences due to head lice in the Ripley County R-IV School District (K – 8th grade) from 91.8% ADA (average daily attendance) in the 01-02 school year to 93% ADA in the 02-03 school year.

Strategies

What Works!

School attendance is important for school success. Research shows that students who attend school regularly will have better grades, increased MAP scores, decreased dropout rates, responsibility and preparedness for life skills, etc. The Ripley County Partnership has partnered with the Ripley County R-IV School to decrease absenteeism due to head lice. Many incidents of absences are caused by repeat occurrences.

Four strategies were implemented in 1998 to decrease student’s school absences due to head lice and poor hygiene.

The school nurse was asked to monitor children that were identified as having chronic head lice. She assisted the children and their families with the removal of nits and obtaining treatment. Special efforts are made to families with repeat cases of head lice. The nurse was also in charge of educating the parents and the students about treatment of head lice and maintaining methods of a lice free environment.

The LiceMeister combs were purchased to assist the nurse with removing the nits from students who were not receiving adequate treatment or received no treatment at home. These combs are one of the most effective tools in removing nits from the student’s hair leading to a quicker and more successful treatment. As a result of the LiceMeister combs, the head lice are being controlled and the students are able to receive successful treatments and go back to school.

Hygiene packs were distributed among all the students in grades K-8 twice a year. The packs



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Interim Office
c/o CEU
3418 Knipp Drive
Jefferson City, MO
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Fax: (573) 526-4814

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were distributed once a year until private donations were received. Classroom education is provided when the students receive their hygiene packs from the nurse. Students also receive education on how to avoid head lice exposure. This education reminds the students about the importance and advantages that good hygiene.

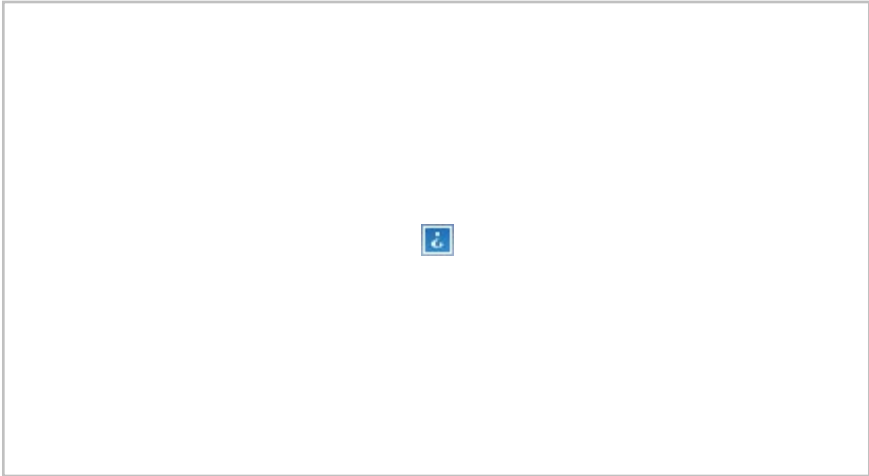
A washer and dryer were also purchased to be utilized by the school district for students that are coming to school in an unkempt condition despite attempts made by the school staff to work with the parents who have repeat occurrences. This allows the school nurse to remove lice from their clothing and assist the family to understand the importance of cleanliness. "This effort has been valuable when services agencies have not been able to rectify the situation"—School Teacher.

What we have changed:

The RCCCP has increased community awareness of lice prevention and the importance of sustaining good hygiene. These efforts empower the students and build up their self-esteem. This has also assisted students to break the current cycle that stems from a lack of education and knowledge about hygiene.

Results

The 1998-99 school year began the baseline for our data.



* There was a flu epidemic in the state of Missouri during the 00-01 school year.

Funding/Return on Investment

Funding Sources Amounts

Caring Communities	\$830.00
School Investment (Nurse)	\$600.00
In Kind	\$720.00

Cost of NOT Intervening

According to Dr. Bounds, the Doniphan R-I School Superintendent, student absences for each day of school missed, that is determined by a consolidation of three formulas, will cost the school \$21.00 per student per day. In 1998, the cost of absences due to head lice cost the school \$1,785.00. The head lice prevention has reduced this amount to \$168.00 for the 2001-02 school year at the Ripley County R-IV School.

Noteworthy

The RCCCP School Site Council has had a tremendous success with this project. The collaboration of Caring Communities, the Ripley County R-IV School District, and the community has been the key to this success. Without this strategy, students would miss school, their grades would drop, lower their MAP scores, be retained, have low self-esteem and would be more likely to be a behavior problem.

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Ripley County Caring Communities Partnership

February 15, 2002

Structure of Partnership

The Ripley County Caring Community Partnership is governed by appointed and elected members. The eight board of directors are representatives of the eight state agencies and four elected officers plus the executive coordinator of the partnership. The Ripley County Caring Community Partnership meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 12:00 P.M.

Geographic Scope/Demographics

The Partnership is located in Ripley County in the Ozark Foothills region of Southeast Missouri near the Arkansas border. The county is approximately 180 miles south of St. Louis and 180 miles east of Springfield. Doniphan is the county seat and lies about 30 miles west of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, which is the regional shopping center for our county. The county is home to several thousand acres of National Forest Lands with the headquarters of the Doniphan Ranger District located in Doniphan. A popular recreational attraction in our county is the Current River that flows through the middle of the county south into Arkansas. The population estimates from the MCDC Demographic Profile, 2000 Census are given below:

Total for Ripley County	13,509
Doniphan	1,932
Naylor	610
Remainder of County	10,967

Ripley County residents are primarily Caucasian (97.5 %) with 1.3% American Indian/Aleut, 1.0% Hispanic, .02% Asian and 0.04% African-American/Black. The primary means of economic support in the county is agricultural, timbering, and a few small-manufacturing plants.

Mission Statement of the Ripley County Caring Community Partnership

The Ripley County Caring Community Partnership is a collaborative partnership between the educational system, community members, social service providers, churches, the business community and local governing bodies working together to strengthen the family unit, change destructive patterns and break down barriers that interfere with the educational process.

Vision Statement of the Ripley County Caring Community Partnership

The Vision of the Ripley County Caring Community Partnership is to provide a safe, healthy, satisfying environment in which families and students can become more resourceful, responsible, and self-reliant.

Community Core Results/Priorities

1. Parents Working and the benchmarks of Increased Earnings, Increased Employment, and Increased Retention of Employment.
2. Youth Ready to Enter Productive Adulthood and benchmarks of Increased High School Graduation Rates and Decreased Teen Pregnancy.
3. Young Children Ready to Enter School and benchmarks of Increased Kindergarten Readiness Test Scores.
4. Children Safe in Their Homes and Families Safe in Their Communities and benchmarks of



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Decreased Substantiated Child Abuse/Neglect and Decreased Out-of-Home Placement for Abuse/Neglect

5. Children Succeeding in School and benchmarks of Decreased Grade Retention, Increased Level of Reading and Mathematics, Increased Grades

6. Children and Families Healthy with benchmarks of Decreased School absences, Increased Immunization Rate at Kindergarten Enrollment

Budget/Leveraging Information

- Family Resource Center started with grants of \$316,000, local funding and in-kind donations of about \$40,000.
- Partnership leverages every dollar we spend with about \$3.00 dollars. We have received over 1.5 million in grants in the county over the past three years. We seek resources for the community from a variety of sources. We act as an interface with state agencies. We help residents and county agencies access state agencies that may not have a presence in the county.

Identifying Community Partners

We would like to take this time to express gratitude to all of the community partners that have made the Ripley County Caring Community Partnership a success. We have recently received the Kids Count in Missouri 2000 rating of 63 up from 107 in 1999. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the dedication of our community. Some of the collaboration members include:

- Ministerial Alliance
- Ripley County Division of Family Services
- South Central Community Action Agency
- Ripley County Public Health Department
- Ripley County School Districts
- Gospel Rescue Mission
- Current River Sheltered Workshop
- Faith Community
- Chamber of Commerce
- Various Community Businesses
- City and County Government
- Civic Organizations
- Lean On Me Food Pantry
- Red Cross/Salvation Army Units

Success/Challenges

Collaborative Efforts

- We facilitated the completion of the Missouri Community Assessment Process (MOCAP) resulting in the first community plan since 1972.
- We helped develop the action steps for the "Champion Community" plan. That plan gives our county good standing with USDA-Rural Development when applying for community facility funds.
- We helped a local developer obtain \$250,000 of seed money to build a 16-unit low-income housing project adjacent to our Resource Center.
- We helped a local bank obtain 30% tax credits when they donated a building to a local school that is now using it for their Head Start program.
- Our Partnership in 2001 assisted in supporting the passage of a library tax for an addition to the local library.
- Additional collaborative efforts have been made over time to start an Alternative school, a local food bank, the Ripley County Salvation Army Unit and the Ripley County Red Cross Unit.

Challenges

The challenges include keeping volunteers and the community involved in projects and tracking

progress when things move slowly.
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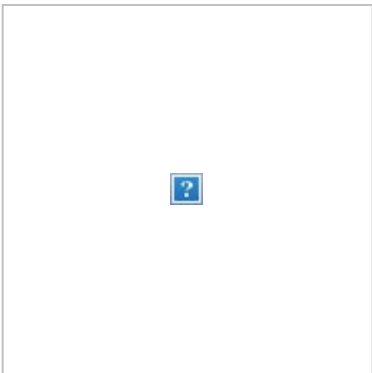
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St. Francois County Community Partnership Community Engagement February 2002

Mission

To build, nurture, and strengthen families, insuring that every person has the opportunity to become a healthy, productive, and contributing member of the community by focusing on the six core results.

Strategies

Many tools have gone into making our Partnership an important part of our communities. Through the use of media, presentations, public meetings, and involvement with local organizations/groups our Partnership has improved the well being of children and families.

Public Meetings

Through collaboration with University Extension, several communities meeting were held to gather information and needs and assets in our communities. This information gave us a good baseline on what people wanted and needed. This information was later confirmed with other communities meetings and surveys conducted by the Partnership.

Use of Media

Our Partnership has been very successful in using the local media to get our message out to the five large communities in our county. This has allowed us to get out what we as a Partnership want to accomplish and what is needed to be accomplished in our communities based on the above communities meetings and other data. The media as a whole has been very cooperative in providing radio airtime, newspaper articles, public service announcements, and information through various community calendars.

Establishment of Local Committee and Participation in Existing Committees

Through our participation in and establishing need groups/committees/councils our Partnership has been able to start several initiative and events.

Results

Transportation Collaboration

Our Partnership in collaboration with five other agencies formed the St. Francois County Transportation Collaborative to find alternatives for transportation for needy people in our county. Meeting with community leaders and consumers gave our collaborative very valuable information

on the need for good transportation in our county. Our work with the Workforce Investment Board will hopefully bring needed funds to our country for transportation needs.

Family Wellness Fair

This annual event brings together over 50 regional health/medical related services/business to inform people of services. Additionally, the local hospital and college donate personnel and supplies to provide flu shots, blood pressure checks, eye screenings, cholesterol checks, and many more health related services. Local businesses donate food and drinks, as well as door prizes for those needy children and families in attendance.

Caring Communities Holiday Season

Through collaboration with our five school districts, DFS, Head Start, we provided ensured a happy holidays for over 950 children in 2001. Through the kindness of our citizens, churches, and many other groups many families were sponsored or enough toys and funds were donated to make for a holiday season. This was only made possible by our well-established reputation.

Parkland Area Dental Services

This is a current ongoing project that grew out of our Remote Area Medical Health Expedition. RAM provided dental services (fillings/extractions/cleanings) for almost 500 people. These services were valued at \$65,000, not including the donation of food, services, and equipment. This project is in cooperation with local dentists and hygienists, five county health departments, and the Partnership. We have received donated equipment and space to start a Medicaid only dental clinic. Limited services should be available by summer.

Friends of the Family

The Partnership while giving a talk to the local Kiwanis Club started this. A local businessman was appalled by the Child Abuse/Neglect statistics and has started this group to reduce that statistic.

Friends of the Family has been able to get a building donated to house offices and to provide a source of funds to run the program in the future. This was made possible by the collaboration with our Partnership. The work has started to make the donated building a source of funding for the program. Additionally, our Partnership and Friends of the Family will apply for a Children's Trust Funds Grant to provide initial operational cost.

United Way of St. Francois County

The Partnership is represented as a board member on the local United Way. Through this association, our Partnership has made known to several organizations the grants available from United Way. North County Caring Communities applied and received a \$3,000 grant to support attendance support groups and incentive programs to make children successful in school.

Upward Bound/EXCEL

The Partnership is represented on the advisory committees of both these programs at Mineral Area College. Upward Bound works to get children into college by working with them in high school to get them academically and mentally ready to go to college and once in college EXCEL works with the students to keep them in school. Making them more productive and contributing citizens to their communities.

21st Century Community Learning Center Grants

Our county is very lucky to have two of these grant programs to serve children in three of our five school districts. The Partnership participates on the advisory board of both programs. These are relatively new and our Partnership is working to find ways to provide assistance and programs for the after-school activities.

Five County Chambers of Commerce

Though our membership in the five main chambers of commerce in our county, we have been able to get more of the business community involved in our goals our events/programs and informed of the importance of improving the well-being of children and families as how it related to the economic development of our region.

American Cancer Society

The Executive Director personally serves as the chairman for the local community council and is

working to accomplish the ACS's 2015 goals. One of which is the reduction of smoking among teenagers.

Other

Our involvement in the following groups/organizations have led to the start of several small programs and planted the seeds for others:

- Housing: (USDA Rural Development; East Missouri Action Agency; Habitat for Humanity; LIFE Center)
- Smoke-free Environments: (SAFE-Farmington; ACS)
- Child Safety: (Project KIDCARE)
- Sharing Ideas: (Inter-Agency Council)
- Improved DFS Services: (CQI)

Funding/Return on Investment

Friends of the Family received the donation of the building (approx \$600,000) to support their program. Our work with the FOTF Director to receive this was relatively small compared to the value of the building.

The awareness concerning the lack of dental services brought out by the success of the RAM Health Expedition and the partnerships that grew out of that event, has led to the donation of dental equipment (valued between \$10-20,000), outstanding compared to the time involved.

Noteworthy

The Friends of the Family has been a very noteworthy collaboration -- from the donation of the building to the cooperation from law enforcement and Division of Family Services.

Additionally, the successful start to the formation of the partnerships to open the area Medicaid dental clinic are going to be very important to the improved health among our children.

Barriers/Road Blocks

The biggest barrier to our work is the lack of knowledge among people in the communities about problems in their neighborhoods. Also, the lack of knowledge by consumers of the different services available for their use.

Additionally, schools can play a huge role in informing and changing attitudes and actions of children and adults alike, but we find that they are resistance to letting groups/organizations to give the students the information.

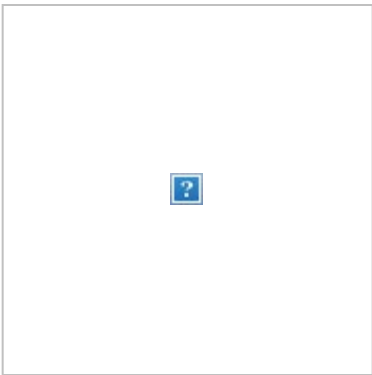
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St. Francois County Community Partnership

At one point-in-time during the last ten years, St. Francois County was the fastest growing county in the state and the region. Out of 115 counties in the state (includes St. Louis City), St. Francois County is the sixteenth largest county. The county's population is 55,790. The county is still growing.

St. Francois County is a largely rural area made up of several distinct and separate communities. The county and its population centers are located along U.S. Highway 67. This is a very busy highway that runs from St. Louis City to the Missouri and Arkansas state line.

The county has three large population centers and three smaller cities. The largest is Farmington with a population of 14,429, followed by a group of cities that share municipal boundaries; Park Hills/Desloge/Leadington with a combined population of 14,188 (9,224, 4,799, and 165 respectively). Bonne Terre follows them with a population of 4,282. The three smaller communities are Bismarck, 1,805, Leadwood, 1,265, and Iron Mountain Lake, 642.

St. Francois County is home to six international companies (e.g., Little Tikes Plays Systems and Mosler) and over 15 national companies. Until the mid-60's, this area was the world's leader in lead mining. All lead mining has stopped in this county and the mines are now tourist attractions, especially for underwater divers. The old mines are one of the hottest extreme sports spots in the country for diving.

Additionally, the county has two major state prisons (one due to open Spring 2001), two hospitals, one college, and a regional mental health facility. There is a small regional airport capable of handling small business jets. The county is in the parkland region with six major state parks and a national forest in the county or in surrounding counties. The county is within easy traveling distance to the City of St. Louis.

There are five school districts in the county; Bismarck, Central, Farmington, North County, and West County. Farmington and North County (Bonne Terre and Desloge) are the two largest school districts, 3,500 and 3,200 respectively. Central, West County, and Bismarck follow with 2,000, 1,000, and 750. Each of these school districts has its own unique needs, but they also share some of the same issues concerning children and families.

The county's child population is 14,003 or 25.1% of the total population of St. Francois County. Using data from Kids Count, OSEDA, state agencies and data collected through local community surveys – the Partnership has discovered many areas of concern.

- The free and reduced lunch program has seen a constant increase over the last several years, rising to 43.4%; the state rate is 35.9%.



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- The county has also had a continued increase in the total amount of families with school age children living in poverty, increasing from 17.3% to a high of 26.8% in last years Kids Count data, to 23% in this year's data.
- The child abuse and neglect rate has been high over the last several years, reaching a peak of 19.9 in 1997, ranking St. Francois county 103 out of 115 counties in Missouri. This year the county is ranked 93 with a 35.9 rate for probable child abuse and neglect. The state rate is 24.4.
- The number of children with serious emotional disorders has increased from 184 in 1994 to 477 in 1999, an increase of 159% (child population increased by 4.8%).
- Percent of children living in single parent families is 18.6%*.
- Children receiving subsidized childcare have increased from 234 in 1994 to 562 in 1999.
- The county has a high percentage of adults 25 and older who have not completed high school. Based on school districts, the percentage ranges from 35.2 to 44.9, with an average of 39.7%.
- The current high school graduation rate is 79.1%.

Our local community surveys have identified five tops concerned of citizens in the county:

- Better Jobs/Benefits
- Parent Involvement
- Affordable Housing
- Public Transportation
- Improved Child Care

The areas unemployment rate is currently at 5.5%, a good number. However, a majority of these jobs are service related and pay at or just above minimum wage. I believe the main concern of better jobs/benefits is the lack of benefits. There are still many families, especially with children, that do not have any type of medical insurance.

Parent involvement has always been a concern in school especially above the elementary level. PTA/PTO and similar organizations have good participation until the children reach the middle and high school level. Increased involvement by parents is known to improve the success of children in school.

Affordable housing has long been an issue in St. Francois County. There are currently approx 400 families receiving HUD or state assistance for housing, with almost 500 on a waiting list. These numbers represent almost 20% of rented households in the county.

Public Transportation is a growing concern for people trying to maintain their employment and for basic social needs (shopping, doctor appointments). Maintaining a car (gas, maintenance, license, taxes, etc) and keeping the insurance current takes a good portion of the average annual wage in the county. SMTS' service is limited and transportation to the workplace is almost nonexistent.

Improved childcare is a growing concern because of the number of people working in industry shift work and service oriented jobs that extend past the normal 8-5 workday. There are currently no childcare facilities that operation 24 hours and a few that offer evening hours. Most have to rely on family members to take care of their children. A solution that is limited with the number of both spouses working and the number of single parent families in the county.

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St. Louis City/County Area Resources for Community and Human Services

Core Result: Parents Working Benchmark: Access to Child Care

February 2002



Objectives:

To increase the number of school-age children served in no cost / low-cost childcare, from 300 to 620, by the end of the 2002 fiscal year.

Population targeted:

Families with school age children in neighborhoods served by Caring Communities schools.

Strategies:

Low and moderate-income parents must contend with a number of barriers to finding employment and accruing job tenure. Among the most difficult is the challenge of providing a continuity of supervision for their school -age children, while they meet their job obligations during business hours. Once children reach school age, parents have a responsibility to insure that they are well supervised in safe and secure environments during those hours immediately before and after school.

The approach taken included:

- Organize community engagement forums to determine potential expansion locations, where other ARCHS/Caring Communities Sustainable Neighborhoods activity is already in place.
- Leverage additional in-kind contributions (custodial services, space, utilities, payroll functions, extended hours of operation) within St. Louis Public School facilities.



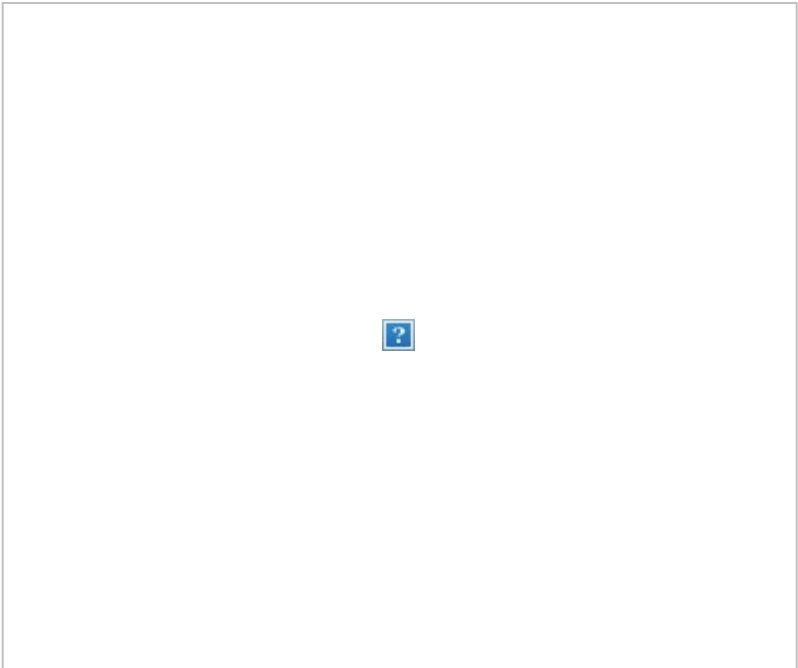
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- On-site screening for identifying potential target population, done in connection with assessments of student and family needs.
- Make access to service convenient for target population by utilizing the St. Louis Caring Communities concept to greater benefit the needs of working parents.

Results:

The current enrollment is 371, which indicates that we are making steady progress toward our target.



Note: number enrolled may exceed the number of slots due to turnover during the period recorded

Funding:

Services through ARCHS/St. Louis Caring Communities Pre-employment Training Component compliment Latchkey and Welfare to Work Initiative efforts, providing a multi-layered approach to removing barriers to employment. Most funding is public, due to the state's policy commitment to reduce the cost of public assistance (through welfare reform) and to increase the overall level of employment in the state over a short period of time.

Barriers:

Meeting targets for additional child care service depends on the success of new capacity development efforts. Reductions in state funding levels have had the effect of limiting the number of new child care slots. An additional barrier is the persistently low child care worker compensation levels, which make recruitment and retention of competent staff very difficult.

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St. Louis City/County Area Resources for Community and Human Services

Core Result: Children and Families Healthy
Benchmark: Uninsured Children

February 2002



Objectives:

Reduce the number of uninsured children in the St. Louis Region by enrolling 20,000 children in the St. Louis area in the MC+ Program over the three-year period, from December 1998 to December 2001.

Strategies:

The Outreach and Enrollment Coalition, a community-wide partnership of over 200 agencies, was formed to develop specific tasks and approaches for implementation within schools to enroll children in the MC+ Program. Prescribed contact protocols were used when approaching potential enrollees, Parent Liaisons were trained to employ recruitment methods that were prescribed by the Coalition's outreach work group.

The school nurse and social worker partnered with Caring Communities health liaisons in each school to provide one on one contact and assistance to parents of identified uninsured children. Children were identified through the free and reduced lunch program and each parent was surveyed by using the MC+ Enrollment Encounter Form. ARCHS Data staff collected data on the number of children enrolled through this process.

The students in 109 schools were targeted, with an emphasis on the 34,877 that were eligible for free and reduced lunch and who may also have been eligible for MC+. Forty-eight schools had the services of Parent Liaisons. Of the 7,000 surveys that were sent to parents, 1,542 were returned in the 2000 – 2001 school year.

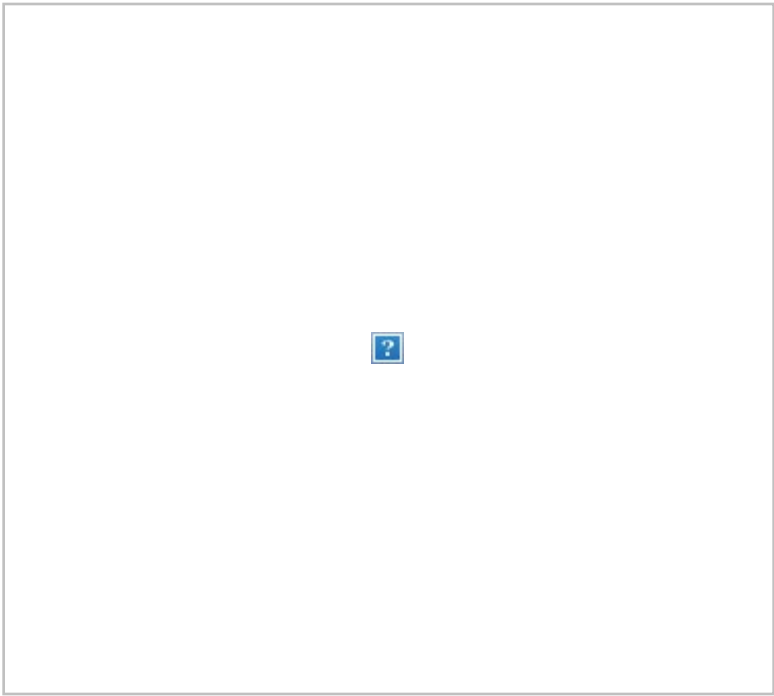


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Results:

There have been 26,415 children enrolled in MC+ since 1999, thus exceeding our target for the region.



Funding:

The outreach efforts were funded through a three year Robert Wood Johnson Grant, through the leveraging of support from Coalition member organizations and the St. Louis City Public Schools.

Noteworthy:

The Health Committee worked in collaboration with the Division of Family Services to develop a Reinstatement Plan for families that lost their Medicaid/MC+ as a result of Welfare Reform changes. The St. Louis City program had the highest reinstatement rate in the state at 29%. The state average was 23.3%. The Virginia Health Care Foundation recognized the St. Louis Outreach and Enrollment Effort as a “Best Practice Model”.

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St. Louis City/County Area Resources for Community and Human Services

Core Result: Children Succeeding in School
Benchmark: MAP Scores

February 2002



Objectives:

To improve the overall performance of elementary school students on standardized tests by reducing the percentage of students scoring at the bottom two levels on the mathematics and communication arts MAP tests by 5 percentage points each year. Beginning in 1999 and by the end of the 2002 school year, the students attending Caring Communities Schools will reach floor standards for district full accreditation.

Target population:

Low performing students in the following schools: Ashland, Bryan Hill, Columbia, Ford, Jefferson, Laclede, Lowell, Mann, Meramec, Shenandoah, Shepard, Sigel, Walbridge and Walnut Park.

Strategies:

ARCHS/Caring Communities school sites have long employed a strategy of academic enrichment along with comprehensive social service and clinical interventions. The process begins with the identification, by school staff, of students at risk of academic underachievement and the referral of those students to Caring Communities staff on-site.

A thorough assessment is conducted to first determine the likely causes of failure and, guided by that determination, to prescribe primary and secondary interventions. We know that academic failures are frequently associated with behavior anomalies, health problems, substance abuse within the family and any number of poverty-related conditions.



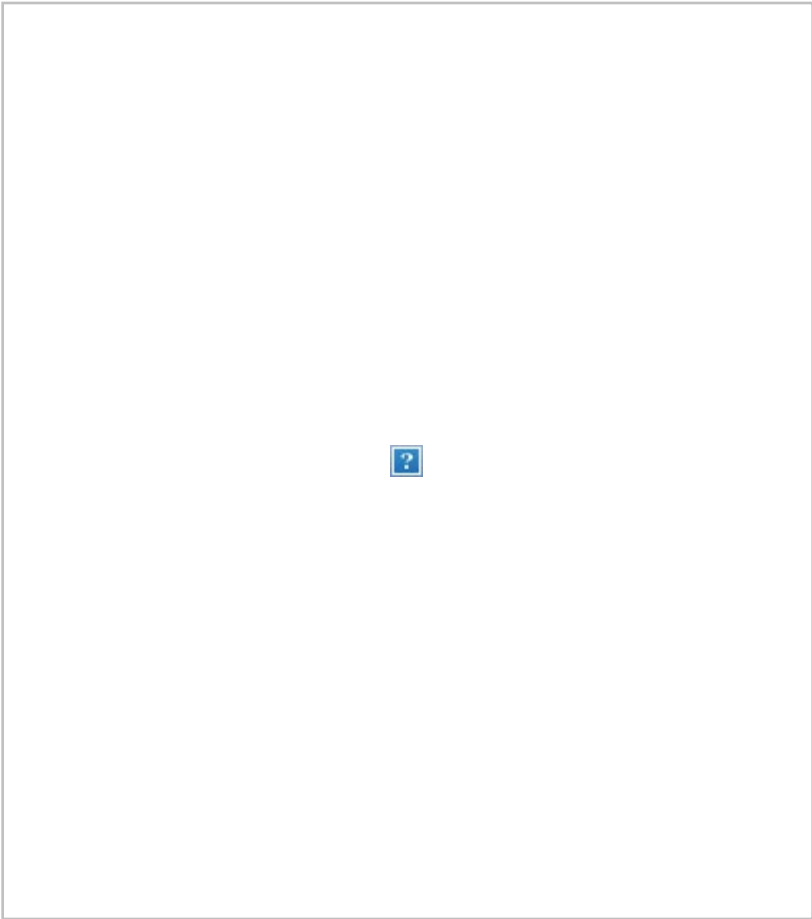
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The citizen councils that determine the mix of services locally have consistently expressed their desire to have a comprehensive service delivery model implemented. In compliance with that desire, ARCHS/Caring Communities, has partnered with Hopewell Center, BJC Behavioral Health, St. Louis Public Schools and the Division of Family Services to provide a single point of contact and a coordinated delivery mechanism for social and clinical service delivery to children and families.

Results:

At the current rate of progress, the combined performance of Caring Communities Schools, in Math and Communication Arts, will meet the established standard in 2002.



Funding:

Caring Communities funds leveraged support, both directly and indirectly, through integration of other ARCHS initiatives, through the schools and through a number of private contributors. Several Caring Communities clusters overlap the service areas of the Sustainable Neighborhoods Initiative.

The Health Initiative operates in all of the Caring Communities schools and the Caring Communities Preemployment Training component compliments the efforts of ARCHS Welfare to Work Initiative. In addition, we have leveraged the services of DFS, the St. Louis Department of Health and the 21st Century Learning Center into many of our sites related to this core result.

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St. Louis City/County Area Resources for Community and Human Services

February 15, 2002

We are pleased to submit the attached Core Results Report in compliance with the new reporting requirements established by the Family and Community Trust.

Across the nation, hundreds of communities are engaging residents in a process to transform the way human and social services are delivered, financed and governed. More frequently known as community governance partnerships, these bodies are responsible for carrying out community initiated strategies developed to improve the lives of children and families.

Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS), as one of Missouri's 21 Caring Communities Partnerships, is the nation's largest community governance partnership.

ARCHS is dedicated to strengthening neighborhoods in the St. Louis City and St. Louis County Region.

The concept of ARCHS was framed in 1997 in response to a federal mandate to move individuals from welfare to work. Partnering with eight state agencies, ARCHS was expanded to achieve the six major goals/ core results of all Missouri's Caring Community Partnerships.

The goals are:

Missouri's Six Core Results
Children and Families Healthy
Parents Working
Young Children Ready to Enter School
Children and Families Safe
Children Succeeding in School
Youth Ready to Enter Productive Adulthood

The basic premise of ARCHS is that neighborhoods are the place to offer ready access and availability of services and supports for families and children. Resident involvement is critical in the development and implementation of strategies designed to achieve positive results for each neighborhood.

ARCHS forms partnerships between neighborhoods and state agencies as its primary strategy to achieve the goals outlined above. Initiatives of ARCHS were developed as an avenue to provide services to the neighborhoods and families of St. Louis City and County. The initiatives are: Welfare to Work; Health; Sustainable Neighborhoods; Early Childhood Care and Education and Caring Communities.

The ARCHS' Community Plan is developed through a citizen driven process. This means that citizen input is critical to ensuring that the plan appropriately addresses the needs of the



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community, that the plan is comprehensive and will effect the changes that will promote long-term good results, and that individual growth and development is promoted.

ARCHS also works with stakeholders to establish financing and delivery strategies that lead to measurable results. Through our 30 member Executive Board, our five working committees, one with as many as 200 members, our twenty-one Caring Communities Steering Committees and Caring Communities Advisory Board with a roster of more than 200 members, and nine Sustainable Neighborhoods Leadership Teams and Neighborhood Cabinet with more than 400 area residents represented in its governance structure, ARCHS enjoys the active participation of more than 1000 area residents on a continuous and structured basis.

In addition, ARCHS facilitates the involvement of other area residents through our community forums and town hall meetings. The planning process begins at the community level and the community is integrally involved in the development of strategies and the selection of area providers to implement the work. We believe in the concepts of "citizen-driven" and "local governance", and have tried to personify these concepts through our structure and through our work. Given the opportunity and support, area residents are clearly their own champions for change.

ARCHS is committed to partnership. We know that it is only through a common vision, community planning, coordinated work and combined funding that positive results can be achieved for the region. Because of the energy and activities generated through the ARCHS Sustainable Neighborhoods and Caring Communities Initiatives, other area government and planning entities are joining with our efforts to take advantage of the strong community involvement, the service and resource partnerships, and the sustainability of efforts that these initiatives generate.

ARCHS partners with more than 375 area providers, local governments, and area funders to ensure that both funds and services are leveraged and accessible to help the community achieve its desired results. Through these partnerships, ARCHS has leveraged more than \$3 for every state dollar, including Caring Communities and other state funds that we received. A remarkable feat for such a young organization!

Improving results for children and families requires a dramatic change in the way services are organized and delivered. Four policy directions shape and guide our work in systems reform to improve results:

- Accountability for better family outcomes
- Local decision making
- Access to comprehensive services, and
- Local financial investment

Any community endeavoring to build a local governance partnership encounters its fair share of challenges. For St. Louis, it was no different. Some of the challenges are not unique to St. Louis, while others reflect the community's culture:

- Shrinking racial polarity in St. Louis
- Implementing citizen-based decision making
- Playing multiple roles (catalyst, facilitator, negotiator, translator, problem solver and bridge)
- Assuming the "Parent Board" role for Caring Communities Site Councils

The most pressing challenge for ARCHS has been transitioning the St. Louis Caring Communities Program from a program to a strategy. Even in that, though, we are certain that by involving the community in a truly respectful and engaging manner where they have real opportunities for leadership, this too shall be accomplished.

Sincerely,

Maggie Hourd-Bryant
Interim Executive Director
Area Resources for Community and Human Services

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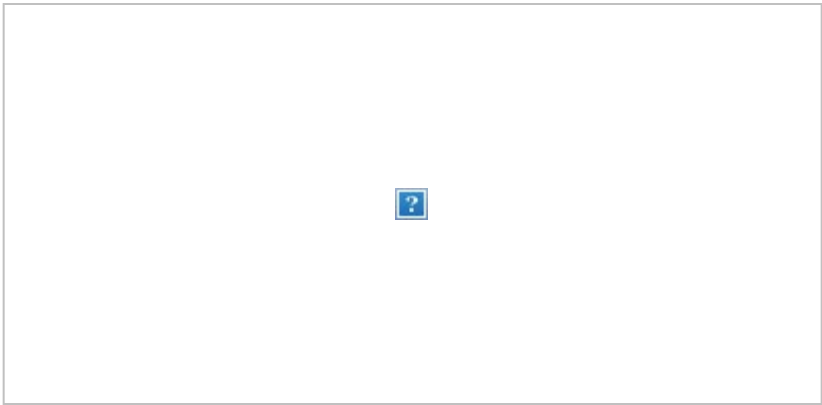
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Washington County C-2000 Partnership Community Engagement Report February 2002

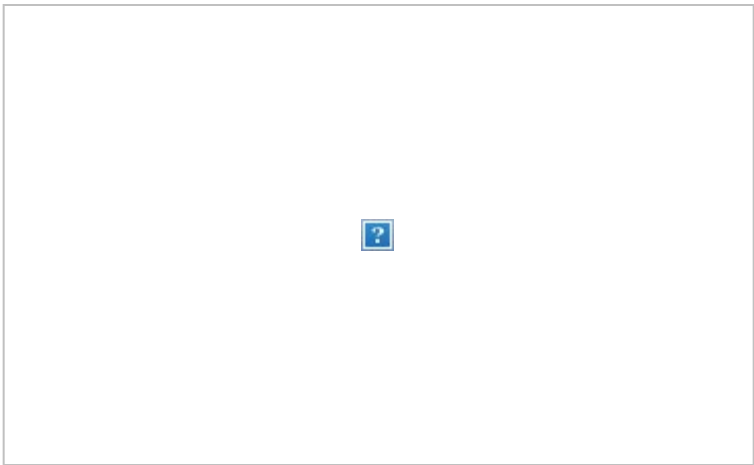


What does the Caring Communities Partnership do for Washington County?

The Partnership offers training and resources to help assess, interpret and prioritize the county's strengths and needs. Through a network of local, state, and federal partners, the Partnership enhances the county's access to funding sources and technical assistance to fill gaps or improve existing services.

What is the most immediate area of concern in Washington County?

The high school dropout rate. Between 1997 and 2000, Washington County has ranked 111, 110, 110, and 113 respectively out of 114 Missouri counties and St. Louis.



Risk and Protective Factors

The U.S. Dept. of Education identifies four risk factors associated with poor outcomes for children. These risk factors are:

- having a mother with less than a high school education;
- living in a family that received food stamps or cash welfare payments;
- living in a single parent household;



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having parents whose primary language is something other than English.

Children born in Washington County are at high risk in three of these areas: 32.9% are born to moms without h.s. diplomas, 41.6% receive food stamps and 21.9% live in single parent households according to Kids Count 2000 Data.

Prevention Pays

The Caring Communities Partnership supports preventive programs which build supports and connections for children before problems arise. These programs rely on early involvement in a child's life.

The two most successful methods to improve high school dropout rates are:

- Adequate preschool and early education programs that help prepare students to learn and;
- Greater attention to early literacy

Under the Caring Communities Partnership Umbrella two programs and a literacy project provide these protective factors.

In it's third year, the Educare program provides training, educational toys, equipment and field trips for local childcare providers. Last quarter, 1373 Washington County children 1-5 years old participated in Educare.

FACES is a 5-year pilot project working with 50 families with pre-school children to reduce the potential for child abuse and neglect by streamlining coordinated services to enhance family life.

WalMart, the County Health Department, and the Washington County C-2000 Partnership teamed up to purchase 5,000 books. Each time a child gets a shot at the health department, they'll get a shot at improved reading skills ... with a free book!

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Washington County C-2000 Partnership

In 1991, Washington County Community 2000 was formed by a group of social service and health providers who met monthly to share information on community efforts and initiatives. Six years later, some members of Community 2000 wrote a grant for a five-year community-based family resource program. FACES was funded and the organization grew to incorporate non-profit in 1999 and achieved Partnership status with Caring Communities in January 2000.

The Partnership is currently acting as fiscal agent and administration for 5 programs in house:

- The **Educare Program** designed to improve the developmental resources of all childcare providers in the county;
- **MC+ Covering Kids** program, one of three pilot sites in Missouri to educate parents and increase enrollment in MC+;
- **FACES**, the above-mentioned CBFRS program, funded by Children's Trust Fund of MO to streamline and integrate services to enhance the quality of family life and reduce the potential of child abuse and neglect;
- ACT Missouri **Parenting Wisely** to reduce use and access to tobacco and drugs among our middle and high school population and
- **Caring Communities**, a collaboration among state departments and local communities to leverage resources and provide technical assistance to address specific documented needs of individual counties. We look forward to advancing beyond Phase III next year.

Last year we acted as fiscal agent for the county in administration of two federal projects, an EPA Grant to research landfill alternatives and a county-wide needs assessment partially funded by USDA Rural Development and Caring Communities.

Our current membership of 85 people, governed by a nine-member board reflects the demographic profile of the county because we are county residents... parents, participants of the programs, providers, persons of faith, of community and family. It's not us and them—it's us. Attached is our Community Engagement Report that outlines one of the core results our community is addressing, Children Succeeding in School.

Thank you for the opportunity to share some of our efforts.

Debby Bust, Administrative Assistant

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To reach a FACT transition team member:

Chris Rackers
crackers@mail.dss.state.mo.us

Bill Dent
wdent01@mail.state.mo.us

Marsha Shasserre
mshasser@mail.state.mo.us

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